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To my Cousin Rollin:

With the hope that your  
brief association with the place  
may give you an interest in its  
history

Sincerely yours  
John Sawyer.







History

OF

CHERRY VALLEY

NEW YORK

From 1740 to 1898.

BY

JOHN SAWYER.

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CHERRY VALLEY, N. Y.

GAZETTE PRINT.

1898.



## PREFACE.

No village in the United States has had so remarkable a history as Cherry Valley; nor has any played so important a part in all the various epochs of the country's history. Indeed it may be said that a careful student might trace through it the life of the country, with all its varied changes: the hardships and struggles of the colonial times; the sufferings and agonies of the revolutionary period; the trials and toils of an impoverished people commencing life over again in the infant republic; the beginning of the emigration from New England and its gradual increase until it became almost a universal exodus from the older states of the east to the new territories of the west; the building up of the villages on the great routes of this travel until they rivalled in their wealth and influence the old commercial towns of New England and eastern New York; their gradual decline through the building of the canals and railroads, which diverted from them their great sources of revenue; and following this the final destruction of their prosperity and influence by the loss of their young men, who have, in recent years, so generally sought the growing country to the west, or the large cities in the east, as offering greater opportunities for advancement. It is not, however, the fact that Cherry Valley played a part in all of these various

epochs that makes its history remarkable, but that it played so important a part, and presents in so marked a manner the importance of the country village in the early life of the country and its great decadence in later times. For, passing by its colonial history, when as the home of the first English church and the first classical school west of the Hudson, and by reason of the prominent part it performed in the revolution, it was recognized as the leading settlement west of Schenectady, we find it for forty years after the close of that war the leading commercial center and for half a century the wealthiest and most influential village in the state west of the Hudson. But more remarkable still, although its population during this time never exceeded one thousand people, it was the home of a greater number of men of prominence and ability and of more skilled mechanics than any other place in the state, excepting only New York.

This work was originally intended to cover only the colonial and revolutionary periods, and was adapted more especially for younger readers. After that portion of it was in type it was concluded to continue it down to the present time. The author somewhat regrets that he did not write it on a broader plan, with more attention to the general influence of the place and less to local detail. Such a course would have been likely to have attracted greater attention, from the outside world, to the importance of the Cherry Valley of the past, but it would necessarily have detracted from its local interest.

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# History of Cherry Valley.

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## CHAPTER I.

### THE EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The interest we all take in the memories, traditions and histories, of our ancestors, presents one of the rare cases where our desires impel us in the same direction as our duty. For, as it is a pleasure to dwell on the deeds and lives of our ancestors, so too, is it a duty we owe them to treasure up their memory and to do them honor for the noble heritage they have passed down to us.

The inhabitants of Cherry Valley have especial cause for treasuring the memories of those who first, through many trials and almost incredible hardships, worked out a home for their descendants; for the early settlers who laid the foundation of this historic little village were not alone, like most of the frontiersmen of that day, sturdy toilers and men of strictest integrity, but they were also, to an unusual degree, men of honorable birth and superior education.—

How much of the great reputation that Cherry Valley acquired in later years, is to be traced back to the direct or indirect influence of these, as it were, cultured pioneers, cannot be told. But that it was the main influence no student of the history of civilization will question.

When John Lindesay, a Scotch gentleman of good birth and some distinction, settled, in 1740, in this valley, and erected his modest house on the hill where now stands the residence of Edward Phelon, he was on the furthestmost western bounds of civilization. To the east the nearest settlements were those of the early Dutch colonists along the Mohawk, and of the Palatines in the Schoharie Valley. History records no greater act of courage than that exhibited by this family, of gentle training, voluntarily seeking a home in this cold and stormy wilderness, frequented by bands of roving Indians upon whose fidelity they could never wholly rely. That they did not miserably perish during the first winter was, however, strange to say, due to the kindness of a roving Indian, who, by chance passing through the valley, stopped at their log house and found them suffering from hunger; their provisions having proven insufficient for their sustenance during the unanticipated length of the winter. The Indian on his snow shoes made repeated trips to the Mohawk settlements for provisions to carry the family through the winter.

The following year, a party of Scotch-Irish from Londonderry, New Hampshire, brought hither their

scanty goods and settled. With them came the Rev. Samuel Dunlop, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, a gentleman learned in the classics as well as in the modern Literature of that day. As was commonly the case in those early times he was not only their spiritual advisor but their temporal leader as well.

Hardly were their rude houses ready for the occupancy of the settlers before the erection of a log church and school house, combined, was begun; And it is a fact, of which those who pride themselves on their connection with this historic village should be as proud as of its revolutionary fame, that on the hill north of Mr. Lindesay's house was erected, in the summer of 1742, the first church west of the Hudson in which the English Language was preached, and in the winter following the first classical school west of Albany was started. The feeble beginning of that famous institution, the Cherry Valley Academy, which, at the close of the last and the beginning of the present Century, rivalled in its reputation and in the number of its students the more pretentious Colleges of Union and Columbia.

The fewness of the settlers and the smallness of their worldly goods were such that they could offer little in payment for the services of the pastor and teacher and he was consequently obliged to eke out his humble living by husbandry. But that his pupils might not suffer too greatly from the closing of the school, during seed time and harvest, he was wont to instruct them while engaged in his pastoral

duties, and it is related that it was a common sight to see him following the plow, on the farm now owned by Mrs. A. B. Cox, while his little class trudged along by his side, scanning their Virgil and Homer. The learning acquired under such circumstances would not be likely to be easily forgotten.

It is told that when Mr. Dunlop left Ireland he was engaged to a charming young lady, conditionally on his returning to claim her as his wife within seven years. When the seven years were nearly expired he made the long journey, from Cherry Valley to Ireland, to bring her to his frontier home. His fiancée had, however, given up all hope of ever hearing from him again, and was to be married, on the day following his arrival, to another suitor. She, however, welcomed her old love with open arms, married him, and with him sought a new home in the western wilds. It is a pretty romance, and few will wish to be so uncharitable as to doubt its truth.

There were seven families in the original Londonderry party, comprising about thirty persons in all, including children. The names of the heads of five of these families,—David Ramsey, William Gault, James Campbell, Patrick Davidson and William Dickson,—have come down to us.

After the name of its founder the place had been originally called Lindesay's Bush; a name doubtless too homely to suit the somewhat refined ideas of the Rev. Mr. Dunlop, for, in the year following his arrival, it was, at his suggestion, re-christened "Cherry



Valley." The new name being derived from the fact that wild cherries were abundant in the valley.

Little has passed down, either by manuscript or tradition, of the doings of the infant settlement during the ten years following the arrival of the Londonderry party. Mr. Lindesay, tired of the rough life and the severity of the winters, disposed of his farm, in 1744, to a Mr. John Wells; a man of rare attainments and integrity, and possessed of a natural judicial mind. He was for many years judge and jury in all disputations that arose from time to time in the neighborhood, and after its formation was one of the Judges of Tryon County.

A Saw Mill and Grist Mill were early erected, and the cleared spaces around the cabins grew in size, but the number of the settlers remained practically the same; the occasional incomers about balancing the losses by deaths and removals. The reputation of the Rev. Mr. Dunlop's primitive but thorough school had, however, extended and a number of the leading settlers along the Mohawk were accustomed to send their sons to him for instruction. They lived with him and formed a little boarding school.

In the early fifties the little settlement received an impetus from the arrival of new settlers and from that time up to the beginning of the Revolution its growth, if slow, was steady and constant. Thus the records show that the eight families, who composed the population of the place in 1752, had increased to forty in 1765 and at the opening of the Revolution

to over sixty. During this time a Blacksmith Shop had been opened, a little store, or trading place, started, and a second Saw Mill erected. There were the usual Indian scares and at one time a preconcerted attack of the Indians was only prevented by the unusual vigilance of the inhabitants. The Indians were always a source of dread and fear and the husbandman invariably took his rifle with him when going to his work.

During the last French war the danger of attacks from the Indian allies of the French became so great that fortifications were erected and a company of Rangers, under the command of the celebrated Capt. McKean, were stationed here. Despite the many scares the place was fortunate in escaping all Indian attacks. Occasionally, however, an unfortunate settler, living on the outskirts of the little settlement, was found dead in the woods, or beside his plow, having been ruthlessly murdered by some roving band of Indians; doubtless from a distance, as the neighboring Indians were on friendly terms with the settlers.

During the several French and Indian wars the exposed condition of the settlement and the paucity of men capable of bearing arms, prevented Cherry Valley from being largely represented in the conflicts that took place, but we read in the old family manuscripts of volunteers from here being present in several battles and it is known that at least three from Cherry Valley were with Johnson on his Lake George expedition.

The additions to the original settlers came mainly from the New England colonies, and, after the last French war, a number of French Canadians also took up their residence here. The former were mainly Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, who naturally passed by the Dutch settlements along the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys to seek a section whose people held views more similar to their own, and where they could worship in a church of their own denomination. As a consequence the little Log Church on the hill soon became too small for its steadily growing congregation, and in 1755 a frame church was erected on the spot where the village Cemetery is now.—Around the church, as was then the custom, their little burying ground was laid out, the last resting place of the many generations that have lived and died in the years that have intervened.

Soon after the close of the last French war, additions to the settlement became more frequent but the growth of the place was somewhat neutralized by the branching out and forming of new settlements by its inhabitants. Thus we find Middlefield, Otego, Laurens, Unadilla and Harpersville settled by emigrants from Cherry Valley; all small but flourishing settlements at the outbreak of the Revolution.

## CHAPTER II.

## THE EARLY DAYS OF THE REVOLUTION.

The Scotch-Irish, who composed the greater portion of the population of Cherry Valley, had naturally little love for the English, and the French Canadians, who formed a smaller part, had even less, so that it was but natural that the inhabitants of this place should be among the first to protest against the attempt of the Royalists, under the leadership of the powerful Johnson family, to commit Tryon county to the English cause. This influence effected to some degree the not less patriotic but more phlegmatic Dutch of the Mohawk Valley, but it had little effect on the independent natures of the residents of the Cherry Valley hills, where the very air seemed to breathe of freedom.

The Church at Cherry Valley was early in 1775 the place appointed for one of the first meetings to protest against this action on the part of the Tories, and the fact that it could accommodate but a small fraction of those who flocked hither from all parts of the country, shows how great and deep was the interest thus early taken in the cause of freedom.

The foremost part that Cherry Valley took in the deliberations of Tryon County, and the influence of some of its representatives, is shown by the fact that John Moore, a resident of the place, was the delegate from Tryon County to the first Provincial Congress,—of which body he was one of the Chaplains,—and a member of the State Committee of Safety. Samuel Clyde, of Cherry Valley, was the first Chairman of the Tryon County Committee of Safety.

At the General Organization of the Tryon County Militia, on August 26th, 1775, among the Officers appointed from Cherry Valley were : Robert Wells, First-Major ; Samuel Clyde, Adjutant and Captain, and James Cannon, John Campbell, jr., and Robert Campbell, Lieutenants. On Sept. 19th, Samuel Campbell was appointed Lieut.-Colonel of the Minute Men. It is worthy of mention, as showing the scarcity of money in those early days, that the County Committee, at the time Mr. Moore was elected a delegate to the Provincial Congress, passed a resolution that the pay of the member of that body, from Tryon County, should be "Eight Shillings in New York currency and no more."

That, though Tryon County was divided nearly equally for a time between tories and patriots, the settlement of Cherry Valley was nearly unanimous in its patriotism is clearly shown by the fact that thirty-three of its inhabitants, out of a total population of only three hundred, responded to the call to arms in 1776. Probably no section of the country,

outside of New England, sent so large a proportion of its inhabitants to join the patriot armies. The fact is even more remarkable when we consider that this settlement was the most exposed of any in the country, not only because of its nearness to the Tory settlement to the North, but also from its danger from Indian attacks on the west.

During the early days of the revolution there was little danger from either of these sources. The flight of the Johnsons and Butlers, to Canada, prevented open hostilities on the part of the tories, and the Indians had been so long on friendly terms with the settlers of the region around Cherry Valley, that, although they had signed an alliance with the British, they hesitated to engage in hostilities against them.

The battle of Oriskany, on the 6th, of August, 1777, changed the friendly feeling, or at most quiescent hostility, of the redman into deadly hatred.—Thenceforth they sought only to be revenged on the settlers of Tryon county, for the death of their brethren, who had fallen in that fierce conflict. Especially were they embittered against Cherry Valley, as the home of Col. Samuel Campbell and Major Samuel Clyde, who had not only been officers high in command in that battle, but had also been especially conspicuous for their bravery and deeds of valor.

Up to this time no fortifications had been erected in Cherry Valley since the destruction of the old

stockade of the French and Indian wars, but the certainty that Brant, the Indian Chieftain, would sooner or later incite his warriors to take vengeance on the settlement, led the inhabitants, in the late summer of the same year, (1777), to prepare a place of refuge in case of attack. They accordingly selected the house of Col. Samuel Campbell, on account of its size and elevated position, and threw up an embankment of earth and logs, enclosing the house and barns.

Hither during the summer and fall of 1777, the inhabitants of the surrounding country gathered for safety, a sort of military discipline being maintained; no one being allowed to pass outside of the fortifications without a permit. This course was made necessary by the fact that even in this stronghold of patriotism some converts to toryism were found; doubtless influenced by the British successes in the campaigns of '76 and '77. Human nature was the same in 1776 as now, and to some the desire to be on the winning side was greater than their love of country.

It is stated in the "Annals of Tryon County" that during the early summer of 1778 a premeditated attack of the Indians under Brant was prevented by a boyish parade of the younger inhabitants, who were accustomed, in imitation of their elders, to parade in front of the fortifications with paper hats and wooden guns. The Indians lying in concealment in the woods to the southeast, mistook them for real soldiers



and, abandoning their intention of attacking the place, moved off toward the Mohawk; stopping for the night at a point nearly opposite the old Sulphur Spring. It was here that the gallant young Lieut. Matthew Wormuth met his tragic end. Lieut. Wormuth, who was the son of a wealthy resident of the Palatine district, had ridden up from the Mohawk to inform the residents of Cherry Valley that Col. Klock with a portion of his regiment would arrive the following day. Toward evening he started to return to his home, accompanied by Peter Sitz, a bearer of dispatches. The Indians hearing them approach, concealed themselves behind a large rock, and commanded them to halt. They, however, put spurs to their horses and endeavored to escape, but a volley from the guns of the Indians killed the horse of Sitz and wounded Lieut. Wormuth, who was at once tomahawked and scalped—the “Annals” says, by Brant himself, who had long been a personal friend, but failed to recognize him in his uniform and ever after lamented his sad mistake.—Sims, a later authority, denies that Brant was himself the murderer. Sitz was captured but had the presence of mind to destroy the despatches and substitute false ones, which he also carried. The death of Lieut. Wormuth was no more tragic than that of many others but his youth, fine personal appearance and agreeable manners, attracted much attention and caused his fate to be remembered when that of others was forgotten in the excitement of those stirring times.

During the summer, stern necessity compelling the settlers to cultivate their land, it was customary for the inhabitants to form themselves into little companies and work together; a portion standing guard while others labored.

In June of this year the neighboring hamlet of Springfield was burned by the Indians and a number of the inhabitants carried into captivity.

The inhabitants of Cherry Valley had long besought the Provincial Government for protection against Indian incursions and the matter being laid before Gen. Lafayette, on his visit to Johnstown, in the Spring of 1778, he ordered that a Fort be erected at Cherry Valley, and a garrison be sent for its protection. The Fort was accordingly built during the summer. It was situated in the Cemetery, near the Church, and a stockade enclosed the two buildings. A regiment under the command of Col. Ichabod Allen, was sent from Connecticut and took possession of the Fort in the Fall. Unfortunately Col. Alden had no experience in Indian warfare and underestimated the courage and ferocity of the Indian. The mere presence of the troops he judged sufficient to intimidate the red men and refused to allow the settlers to move into the stockade, even after reports were brought to him that the Indians, under their great Chieftain, Joseph Brant, were rendezvousing on the Susquehanna; where they had been joined by a body of Tories under Capt. Walter Butler, son of that Col. John Butler, who gained such an infamous notoriety from his participation in the Wyoming Massacre.

## CHAPTER III.

## CHERRY VALLEY AT THE TIME OF THE MASSACRE.

At the time of the Massacre the Fort and the village of Cherry Valley,—if it may be called a village, comprising as it did only half a dozen houses and a church,—was situated in and around the present Cemetery at the lower end of the village and at the upper end of a valley, resembling a Roman Amphitheater in shape: being, apparently, about six miles in length by one mile in width, and surrounded on all sides by gracefully sloping, wooded hills. As a strict matter of fact the valley continues to the South, until it joins the larger valley of the Susquehanna, but it turns sharply to the right where the Westford hills rise, a mile or two below the village of Roseboom, and is so hidden from view by the hills that it appears to end with them. The hills to the North of the village over-look the Mohawk Valley; the streams on that side seeking the Ocean by way of the Mohawk, while those on the South side mingle with the waters of the Susquehanna. Some older geographers have contended that the latter river has its source in the Cherry Valley hills instead of in Otsego Lake.

On the hill at the upper end of the valley, in a direct line from the Fort stood the log house of Col. Samuel Campbell, on the site of the residence now occupied as a summer home by his great-great-grand-children; a half mile to the east and on the same level was the house and shop of James Moore, the blacksmith of the settlement, on the lands now owned by Elisha Flint, and North of him lived a Nelson family. About the same distance to the North of Col. Campbell's was the home of his father-in-law, Matthew Cannon. (disputed); while at an equal distance to the West, was the home of John Campbell, now the summer home of the writer. The present Jackson Millson farm was then occupied by a James Campbell.

On the road to the West, leading to Springfield, lived the Rev. Samuel Dunlop at the foot of Livingston's Glen, on the lands of Mrs A. B. Cox. There is a tradition that further up the Glen there was a sort of flax or carding mill, in which lived the family of the owner, whose name is not given. Following the Springfield road: the McClellans occupied the present Chauncey Steenburgh farm; James and William Campbell the Fred Blumenstock farm; the Coonrads, the farm now owned by Richard Bierman; the Culleys the farm now occupied by C. W. Sherman and the Shanklands the Elijah Bush farm; Capt. M'Kean lived on the James Horton place and had the M'Kowns as neighbors. The Wiggy Willsons, so called, from the fact that the head of the family

wore a wig, to distinguish them from the other Willson family, lived in Irish Hollow.

The Wells lived on a knoll about a third of a mile South of the Fort, on the present Phelon farm, and on the hill to the West, on the farm now owned by a descendant. Capt. James D. Clyde, was the home of Major Clyde. Further on were the McKellips on the present James Wikoff farm. Down the valley to the South of the Wells lived the Gaults on the Frank Campbell farm and the Dicksons on the present Mrs. Geo. Head farm. On the opposite side of the valley, on the farm now occupied by a descendant, Louis G. Willson, lived John and James Willson, and South of them the Scotts, on the Wikoff farm.

Nearly opposite the Fort, on the East side of the valley, lived the Thompsons, on the knoll near the Sulphur Spring; further North, John Foster, on the farm now owned by E. L. Hinckley. Near the present Reservoir was the house and Saw Mill of Hugh Mitchell and, beyond, on the Marks farm, lived Patrick Davidson. Still further North, on the Dewitt C. Campbell farm, was the house of a family named Coons. John Moore, tradition says, lived on the Elisha Moore farm a little over two miles East of the village, but it seems more probable that he should have erected his house on the hill to the West, over-looking the Mohawk Valley, now owned by Wm. H. Waldron.

A further list might be given but this is sufficient

to show the limits of the Massacre. It will be seen that the limits of what was known as the Cherry Valley settlement were, on the West and South, almost identical with the boundaries of the present town of Cherry Valley in those directions. To the East and North the boundaries were not much different than at present, but the Indians either did not reach the more distant houses, or the owners had sufficient warning so that they escaped to the Mohawk settlements.

At the time of the Massacre most of the male inhabitants of Cherry Valley, over the age of sixteen, were serving in the Continental Army, at distant points. At first thought it seems strange that the men who had lived all their lives among the Indians, and knew all their wiles and stratagems, and were thoroughly acquainted with their methods of warfare, should have been sent to the main armies and men unacquainted with the ways of the Indian be sent to protect a frontier settlement. It can only be explained on the theory that experience had shown that when men were left to protect their home settlements, their zeal for the cause of patriotism was likely to be lost sight of in their desire to look first after their own interests and the improvement of their farms and material prospects. In the case of Cherry Valley it was a sad mistake. Had such men as Capt. M'Kean, Col. Campbell and Col. Clyde been at home, it is safe to say, the Indians would not have found the settlement so unprepared, and

that many of the lives lost in that horrible butchery would have been saved.

Among the men who, by their ability, prominence, or zeal for the cause of patriotism, gave honor to Cherry Valley during the Revolutionary period, the first place must be given to the Rev. Samuel Dunlop, by reason of his age, great learning and the position he had so long occupied in the settlement. His great age prevented him from taking active part in the conflict but his advice was sought by all on matters pertaining to the war, and the patriotism displayed by the inhabitants of this section was largely due to his influence.

John Moore was the most prominent resident of the place during this period, though not distinguished as a soldier, owing to his lameness. He was a delegate to the first, second, third, fourth and fifth Provincial Congresses; a member of the State Committee of Safety, and several times a Member of Assembly.

Capt. M'Kean, though not an educated man, was one of the leading men of the settlement by reason of his natural abilities and physical strength and endurance. In such times physique and agility were quite as important as mental training, and indeed were likely to give the possessor greater prominence. M'Kean was accounted one of the most skillful Indian fighters in the country. He had command of a company of Rangers in the French war, and also during the Revolution. During the war he was



raised to the rank of Major. He was killed in the battle of Durlock, near Sharon Springs, in the summer of 1781.

Samuel Clyde, who was raised to the rank of Col., early in 1778, was one of the most prominent men and active patriots of the settlement. It is claimed that, after the death of Gen. Herkimer, the Officers wished to elect him Brigadier General in the place of Herkimer, but that he declined, on the ground that his advancement over the heads of Officers of higher rank, would cause jealousies which would be injurious to the American cause. The failure to appoint a successor to Gen. Herkimer is said to have been due to this refusal on the part of Mr. Clyde, who was then a Major. Col Clyde was a member of the State Assembly in 1777-8, and Sheriff of Montgomery County in 1785-9.

Col. Samuel Campbell was one of the leaders of the settlement in all matters—social, religious, political and military. He was a member of the Tryon County Committee of Safety and a Col. of the Tryon County Minute Men. His grand-son, the late Judge W. W. Campbell, author of the "Annals of Tryon County," states that as the highest Officer left in command, he led off the troops after the Battle of Oriskany. Col. Campbell was the intimate friend of Gov. Clinton, and numbered among his friends most of the public men of the North. As late as 1802 he was a member of Assembly from Tryon County.

James and John Willson were among the leading

and most influential residents. The Rev. Mr. Swinerton, in his "Historical Sketch of the Presbyterian Church of Cherry Valley," states that the former was, in 1739, High Sheriff of Albany County, which then included all this part of the country. He came here first in that year, as a surveyor, in company with Mr. Lindesay, and later on settled here. He was Commissary for the regiment stationed in the Fort.

The Wells were the social leaders of this part of the Country. John Wells, who died just previous to the Revolution, was a King's Magistrate and his son Robert Wells, was a Major in the Tryon County Militia. The entire Wells family were killed in the Massacre, except a son who was in Schenectady at the time. The latter was afterwards the famous New York lawyer—John Wells.

James Cannon, although a young man, was a very active patriot and afterwards became a man of considerable importance in Otsego County, holding several County offices.

Hugh Mitchell and Thomas Shankland, though men of inferior education and social position, were nevertheless, by reason of their activity and patriotism, men of some consideration in the settlement. The former was, in 1775, a member of the Schenectady Committee of Safety. Thomas Spence, the Indian interpreter, was also for a time a resident of Cherry Valley. He rendered valuable services to the Americans during the Revolution.

There were a number of others who, by reason of their activity in the cause of Liberty, are worthy of mention, but the above list comprises those who might be termed the "leading men" in the settlement. It is a remarkable list for a little frontier settlement of three hundred people. Not alone because of the prominence of those mentioned, in the affairs of the western part of the Province, but also for the reason that so many of them were men of excellent social standing and superior education.—To the latter facts the former was doubtless due.—The Dutch of the Mohawk Valley though an excellent, sturdy and honest people, were not, as a rule, an educated class, and they readily yielded precedence to the brighter and more cultivated intellects of the Cherry Valley leaders, in their councils and deliberations, notwithstanding the fact that each district was, in military matters, very tenacious of its rights.

It is interesting in this connection to note that many of the men who were the most prominent, during the Revolution and the years following, in the affairs of the Mohawk Valley, received their early education at Rev. Mr. Dunlop's school in Cherry Valley. The most notable of these was John Frey, for many years the most prominent resident of the Valley.

## CHAPTER IV.

## THE MASSACRE.

The morning of the 11th of November, 1778. found the people lulled into fancied security. The positive assurances of Col. Alden that no attack was intended, his stationing outposts, as he asserted, not in anticipation of danger but to quiet the apprehensions of the citizens, the fact that he and several of his command slept outside the Fort, had removed the fears entertained, during the summer and fall, of an attack upon the settlement. Who can tell the shock of the awakening from this fancied security! Soon after daylight a horseman from Beaverdam rode in hot haste into the village, saying he had been fired upon by Indians. Too late Col. Alden repented of his over-confidence. His scouts and outposts had shared in his confidence of safety and in their consequent carelessness had been captured by the approaching forces.

Hard upon the heels of the rider came Butler and Brant with a savage army, twice the number of all the men, women and children in the neighborhood.

On they came in that cold, drizzly, November morning, bringing mutilation and death, or a yet more to be dreaded captivity to the peaceful, innocent inhabitants of the little Valley. There was not time either for citizens or soldiers to reach the Fort. Col. Alden, who was at the house of Mr. Wells, and whose over-confidence was the cause of the Massacre, hastened toward his command. He was hotly pursued by an Indian, who called upon him to stop.—The order not being obeyed, the savage threw his tomahawk which hit the Colonel in the head, and this put him in the power of his dusky pursuer. He was killed and scalped.

Meanwhile the bloody work had commenced in all parts of the little settlement. Many of the soldiers were either quartered among the citizens or were making them friendly visits. Sixteen of them fell beneath the murderous tomahawk and fourteen were taken prisoners. Men, women, and children, were killed indiscriminately or were taken prisoners, according to the mood of the Indians or the yet more barbarous Tories. The Indian war whoop was heard in every direction, mingled with the screams of the affrighted and the cries and shrieks of the wounded and dying.

Here a husband and father was killed while endeavoring to protect his wife and children. There a mother was tomahawked while striving to guard her helpless offspring. Children's brains were knocked out before the eyes of agonized parents. Wives

were killed while their husbands stood bound in the hands of the captors. A few reached the Fort; some fled to the woods, preferring the chances of death by cold or starvation rather than certain destruction or capture at the hands of their barbarous enemies.— In a few hours the work of destruction and desolation was complete. What was at sunrise a fair and flourishing settlement, with comfortable houses, well filled barns and lowing herds, was at sunset a homeless waste, with only here and there a house, while amid the smouldering embers of the burned buildings were found the charred bones of the victims of the unholy massacre.

The house of Mr. Wells was among the first attacked, the village having been entered at that point.— The family were engaged in their morning devotions when the Indians entered the house. Mr. Wells was tomakawked while offering supplications at the throne of Grace. The entire family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Wells, a brother and sister, three children and three domestics, were killed. One daughter, especially beloved for her kindness of heart and many christian graces, having escaped from the house was pursued by an Indian who, as he approached her, raised his tomahawk. She begged him, in the Indian language, to spare her life. A tory, who had been a servant in her father's family, and who knew her amiable qualities, stepped between her and the savage, and asked him to spare her life, claiming she was his sister. The Indian pushed him roughly

aside and buried his hatchet in the head of the innocent and pure hearted girl. One representative of the family was left, a boy, who was at school in Schenectady. He ultimately became a prominent lawyer in New York city. One of his descendants was present at the unveiling of the monument, erected to the memory of the victims at the Centennial of the Massacre in 1878.

The home of Rev. Mr. Dunlop, the venerable and beloved minister of the settlement, was attacked.—His life was spared through the influence of Little Aaron, an Indian Chief, who had attended Mr. Wheelock's school in Lebanon. Mrs. Dunlop was killed and mutilated in his presence. He was taken prisoner, but was not retained. With a daughter he went to New Jersey, where he died the following year; never having recovered from the effects of the awful scenes through which he passed at the Massacre.

The home of Mr. Mitchell was the scene of great barbarity. He was himself not in the house when the attack was made, though in sight of it. Seeing the impossibility of aiding his family, and hoping that his wife and children would be spared, he concealed himself until the party left the house. He returned immediately upon their leaving but it was to find Mrs. Mitchell and three children dead and bathed in their own blood. A fourth child was not quite dead,—a little girl ten or twelve years of age. Taking her up tenderly he was endeavoring to restore



her to consciousness when he saw another party approaching the house. He again concealed himself and from his place of concealment he saw a white man, Newberry by name, cleave with his hatchet the head of his little daughter. Newberry was hung, at Canajoharie, the following summer; Mr. Mitchell's testimony having much to do with his conviction.

The Dickson's lived on a knoll about two miles below the Fort. Hearing the Indians approach Mrs. Dickson and her children climbed the precipitous hill back of their house and concealed themselves in the woods. Some time after the Indians had, apparently, all gone by, Mrs. Dickson, cautioning her children to remain in concealment, returned to the house in search of food. She was at once seized and killed by a party of Indians who had remained behind as an ambuscade. The children lay in hiding all that day and the following night. The next morning the eldest child crept to the brink of the hill and found the Indians encamped a little below their home. One of the first sights she saw was a tall pole stuck in the ground, on which were hung a large number of human scalps and conspicuous over the rest was one of long fiery red hair which she knew at once had belonged to her mother. Later in the day a scouting party brought the motherless children into the Fort.

The first person killed in the Massacre was James Gault, one of the original settlers. His house was



half a mile North of the Dicksons and was, with that exception, the first house in the settlement in that direction. They had no notice of the approach of the Indians and the entire family was captured.—Mr. Gault was at once slain. The other members of the family were only retained in captivity a day or two.

Col. Samuel Campbell was from home at the time of the attack. On his return he found neither mother, wife nor children. Later he learned that Mrs. Campbell and four children had been taken prisoners. When the house was attacked it had been vigorously defended by her father, Mr. Cannon. He was finally wounded and the family captured, with the exception of one child, who was concealed by the negro nurse.

Among those who escaped captivity was the family of Col. Clyde. The Colonel was not at home. Mrs. Clyde, having learned of the attack, fled with her seven children and a negro lad, from the house before the arrival of the Indians and Tories. With the aid of the lad she succeeded in keeping the children quiet in their concealment, although the savages passed within a few feet of their hiding place. She was taken into the Fort the following morning, as was also a daughter, ten years of age, who was separated from her when they fled from the house.

A story is related of the escape of a family living in the Fulling mill in Livingston's Glen, which has in it a touch of humor, the only break in the record

of the sad and awful horrors of the Massacre.—Hearing the Indian outcries the mother hurried her children up the bank, on the side of the Glen. Telling them to conceal themselves in the bushes and cautioning them under no circumstances to answer any calls, no matter by whom given, she sought another hiding place and eventually reached the Fort without her children. The following morning a scouting party tried to find the children, but no answer was returned to their calls and shouts, and finally, discouraged, they sent a party after the mother. She had no better success. In vain she called them again and again. There was no response. Heart broken in the belief that the Indians had captured them she was about to return to the Fort when one of the soldiers discovered them huddled together, in fear and trembling, in a dense thicket of brush, cold and hungry, but unharmed.

As morning drew on, the prisoners were assembled together and commenced their weary march down the valley, in a pitiless November storm. They encamped about two miles from the village and, after a sleepless night, upon the dismal morning of the twelfth, again started on their doleful way. Mrs. Cannon, on account of her age and otherwise enfeebled condition, not being able to keep up with the party, was killed and left by the wayside. A sad day's march and another sorrowful night, and then came the joyful announcement that the women and children were to be sent back, with the exception of

the families of John Moore and Samuel Campbell, whose prominence was such that their families were carried into a long and severe captivity. An exchange was not made until near the close of the war. Among the captives was the late James Campbell, then a boy of five or six years, who died about 1870.

The Fort was attacked upon the 11th, but the assailants were repulsed. An attack was again made on the 12th, but wisely heeding the remonstrance of the cannon of the garrison the attacking party soon retired and soon after departed down the valley.—Two hours after they had gone a company of Continental troops under command of Col. James Gordon, accompanied by a regiment of the Mohawk Militia under Col. Klock, arrived at the Fort, having been notified by some of the fugitives of the attack on the settlement. They were too late to do more than help in collecting the fugitives hidden in the woods and assist in burying the dead.

The charred and mutilated remains of those who had perished were collected and consigned to a common grave in the village cemetery. It was decided to abandon the settlement in which nothing was left except the Fort, the Church, and here and there a house. The cattle had been killed or driven away; the grain burned, and the vegetables destroyed by fire or frost. Most of those who survived the Massacre wended their way to the Valley of the Mokawk, where they remained until the close of the war. The Fort was occupied until the following

summer, when the Regiment was ordered to join Clinton in the Sullivan expedition.

## CHAPTER V.

## VARIOUS FACTS CONNECTED WITH THE MASSACRE.

The number of the Indians and Tories engaged in the Massacre at Cherry Valley has been variously estimated at from seven to eight hundred. Campbell in his "Annals" places the number at seven hundred, composed of five hundred Indians and two hundred Rangers. Another authority states that the force was about equally divided between Indians and Tories, while still another states that there were four hundred Tories engaged in the attack. As none of the authorities place the number at more than eight, or less than seven hundred, it may safely be assumed that the force numbered somewhat over seven hundred.

The circumstances leading to the attack, as given in the Annals, were as follows: Capt. Walter Butler was taken prisoner while on a visit to Tryon county, in the summer of 1775, and confined in the Albany goal. Pretending sickness, he was transferred to a private house from which he effected his escape and joined his father at Niagara. Here he procured command of a part of the regiment known as 'Butler's

Rangers, together with permission to employ the Indian forces under Brant. Burning with a desire for vengeance he at once started for Cherry Valley. On his way he met Brant who was returning to winter quarters at Niagara. The latter reluctantly consented to accompany him, Campbell states, at displeasure of being placed under the command of Butler. Others take the more charitable view that, knowing the vindictive spirit with which Butler was animated, he was fearful that the outrages which would be committed would sully his reputation for humanity, of which he was very tenacious. Strange as it may seem to the majority of people who are woefully ignorant of the true character of this remarkable man, it was doubtless fortunate for the inhabitants of Cherry Valley that he finally consented to join his forces with those of Butler. His whole effort during the Massacre seems to have been directed to protecting the women and children so far as he had the power. It is known that he endeavored, by taking a short cut, to reach the house of Mr. Wells in advance of the Senecas, the most blood-thirsty of the Indians, and to whom most of the barbarities of the Massacre are to be traced, in order that he might protect them. Unfortunately he was delayed in crossing a large plowed field and arrived too late to save the lives of this very estimable family. Another act, showing his humanity, is related in the 'Annals':

"In a house which he entered, he found a women

engaged in her usual business. "Are you thus engaged, while all your neighbors are murdered around you?" said Brant. "We are king's people," she replied. "That plea will not avail you to-day.—They have murdered Mr. Wells' family, who are as dear to me as my own." "There is one Joseph Brant; if he is with the Indians he will save us." "I am Joseph Brant; but I have not the command, and I know not that I can save you; but I will do what is in my power." While speaking, several Senecas were observed approaching the house. "Get into bed and feign yourself sick," said Brant hastily.

When the Senecas came in, he told them there were no persons there, but a sick woman and her children, and besought them to leave the house; which after a short conversation, they accordingly did. As soon as they were out of sight, Brant went to the end of the house, and gave a long shrill yell; soon after, a small band of Mohawks were seen crossing the adjoining field with great speed. As they came up, he addressed them—"Where is your paint? here, put my mark upon this woman and her children." As soon as it was done, he added, "You are now probably safe." She was not again molested.

Brant's greatest act of mercy was in securing the return, to their homes, of the women and children captured at the time of the Massacre. That he did not also secure the release of the Campbell and Moore families was, doubtless, owing to the fact that Walter Butler insisted on retaining them in order

to obtain the release of his wife, who was held captive by the authorities of Tryon county, by effecting an exchange.

The number killed in the Massacre is given at forty-eight, of which sixteen were soldiers of the garrison. The captives taken, has been variously estimated at from thirty to forty. The latter were all released the second day, and returned to their homes, with the exception of Mrs. Samuel Campbell and four children, Mrs. John Moore and three daughters, Mr. Cannon, several officers and men.—Among the officers captured, was Lieut. Col. Stacey, against whom Molly Brant had, for some unknown reason, a deadly hostility. In order to bring about his death, she resorted to the Indian method of dreaming. “She informed Col. Butler that she dreamed she had the Yankee’s head, and that she and the Indians were kicking it about the Fort.—Col. Butler ordered a small keg of rum to be painted and given to her. This, for a short time appeased her, but she dreamed the second time that she had the Yankee’s head, with his hat on. Col. Butler ordered another keg of rum to be given her, then told her, decidedly, that Col. Stacey should not be given up to the Indians. Col. Stacey was afterwards exchanged.

The prisoners were taken to Kanedaseago, Mrs. Campbell carrying a child of eighteen months in her arms, the entire distance. Here the families were separated, the several members being adopted into



different Indian families. Mrs. Campbell was detained at Kanedaseago about a year and then removed to Niagara. Arrangements having been completed for her exchange her children were again gathered together, with the exception of one boy of six or seven years. Later Mrs. Campbell found him awaiting her at Montreal, whither she was sent with her family. He had entirely forgotten his native tongue but spoke the Indian language fluently.

At about the same time, Mrs. Moore and her children were exchanged and returned to Cherry Valley, with the exception of one daughter, Jane, who had, not long after her arrival at Niagara, married a Capt. Powell, an English officer of excellent reputation, with whom she remained in Canada.

Sims, in his "Frontiersmen," relates the following anecdote, giving Brant himself as the authority:

Among those captured at Cherry Valley was a man named Vrooman, with whom Brant was acquainted. Desiring to aid him in escaping the latter, when the party was a few miles from the settlement, sent Vrooman back, about two miles, after a few strips of white bark, expecting that he would take advantage of the opportunity and escape to the Fort. Greatly to Brant's surprise and disgust, in a couple of hours, Vrooman came panting back, bringing with him the bark.

Col. John Butler, naturally sensitive of the stigma which attached to the memory of his son, by reason of the inhumanities practiced at the time of the

Massacre, claimed that Brant's exhibition of humanity was prompted by a desire to cast discredit on Walter Butler's humanity. Brant always strenuously denied this, and pointed to his conduct at other places as evidence that he warred neither on women nor children.

## CHAPTER VI.

## THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE SETTLEMENT.

Although the greater part of the inhabitants of Cherry Valley sought more protected places of residence, immediately after the Massacre, a few hardy settlers still clung to their homes, doubtless in the belief that there was so little in the way of plunder left to repay them that the Indians would not make another attack, or perhaps, in this poverty, dreading more the seeking of new homes among a strange people than the chance of an attack from the Indians.

Only two incidents of especial moment occurred during the early winter following the Massacre.—The first was the killing, by the Indians, of John Thompson, a son of Alexander Thompson, a resident of Cherry Valley, who had fled to the Mohawk at the time of the Massacre. Young Thompson, who was a promising youth of about twenty, had started to ride up from the Mohawk with a party of young men, to visit his former home. When at almost the identical spot at which Lieut. Wormuth (the early spelling of this name seems to have been Wormwood)

was slain, they were fired upon by a party of Indians and Thompson was instantly killed. The remainder of the party escaped.

The other incident which occasioned considerable talk at the time, was the hanging of Wiggy Willson. Willson's sympathies were known to be with the Tories and he was suspected by the settlers of acting as a spy on the settlement. At about the time of the killing of young Thompson, and perhaps in consequence of that act, the garrison became suspicious that the Indians contemplated another attack on the settlement. It was thought that Wiggy Willson might be able to give information regarding the intentions of the Indians. Accordingly a party, composed of settlers and soldiers, visited him and demanded that he should inform them as to the intentions of his red friends. Unfortunately for himself he could not give the desired information; doubtless for the reason that he was as ignorant of the matter as his neighbors. The latter had, however, little faith in Wiggy's sincerity, and, believing that a little "moral suasion" was needed, produced a rope and in a moment he was swinging from a convenient appletree. Leaving him thus suspended a sufficient length of time to convince him of their earnestness, and to give him a fair idea of the unpleasantness of that means of ending life, he was let down to the ground. The shock had however added neither to his knowledge nor imagination and he was again suspended in the air. This time he was

allowed to hang so long that it was only after much labor that his blood was started in circulation.—Frightened at their narrow escape from committing murder the settlers took a hasty departure, leaving the rope with Wiggy alike as a warning and a memento. The episode created a good deal of unfavorable comment at the time but it completely cured Wiggy of his tory proclivities.

Brant, when some time after he heard of a reflection made on his cruelty, by a resident of Cherry Valley, retorted that “he had never himself made war on women or children, nor,” he added with emphasis “hanged a neighbor on suspicion.”

John Foster was another resident whose Toryism was more pronounced than that of Wiggy Willson. Brant himself visited him the summer preceeding the Massacre and there is little doubt but that he was in constant communication with the Indian and Tory leaders. It seems somewhat singular but apparently after the war all ill feeling between the patriots and the tories appears to have been dropped, so far at least as this settlement was concerned,—Foster continued to live here many years after the close of war and was always well treated. In fact “Old Jacky Foster” became quite popular during his later years. Foster and Willson were both illiterate men.

During the following summer occurred the remarkable defence and escape of Robert Shankland, of which all the Border Histories of New York speak.

Mr. Shankland, having taken his family to the Mohawk after the Massacre, returned the following summer with his son, a boy of about 14 years, to harvest his crops. He was awakened one night by a pounding on the door of his log cabin. Getting up he found that the Indians were trying to chop through the door with their tomahawks. Taking his spear in his hand he suddenly opened the door and charged on the Indians. Surprised at the suddenness of the unexpected attack they retreated a few feet, followed by Mr. Shankland, who, in driving his spear at one of them, struck it in a log so hard that he broke the handle in trying to pull it out. Stooping down he grasped the blade, and wrenching it from the log, returned to the house without a shot being fired at him. Awakening his son he took his guns and began returning the fire which the Indians now commenced on the house, the boy loading as he fired. Despairing of accomplishing anything by this method of warfare, the Indians gathered a quantity of inflammable material, and placing it against the side of the cabin, fired it.—During the excitement attendant upon this the boy attempted to escape from the house but was captured by the Indians. He was some time afterwards released. When he grew to manhood he moved to Cooperstown and became a person of considerable importance, having been a National Elector in 1808.

Mr. Shankland kept up his firing on the Indians, until the heat became too great for him to remain

longer in the burning building, when he bethought himself of a cellar door close up to which grew a field of hemp. Creeping through this he was fortunate enough to escape through the hemp unperceived by the Indians, who continued dancing, yelling and shooting around the house until it was burned to the ground. Then they continued on their way, happy in the thought that the bones of the supposed victim were buried in the ashes of his dwelling.

The peace of the settlement was undisturbed during the following year and confidence was beginning to return to the settlers, when, without warning, on the 24th. of April, 1780, a party of seventy-nine Indians and two tories descended on the ill-fated settlement. Eight of the settlers were killed and fourteen carried into captivity, and the settlement was this time completely wiped out of existence; the Fort, church and the few buildings left after the first incursion being burned to the ground. Thus in a few hours were the results of the labors and struggles of nearly forty years destroyed; the valley returned again into the undisputed possession of the beasts and the birds, and Cherry Valley, a few years before, the largest and most prominent of the Frontier settlements of New York, was but a name.

## CHAPTER VII.

## THE RE-SETTLEMENT OF CHERRY VALLEY. WASHINGTON'S VISIT.

The war was not fairly ended before the inhabitants, who had been scattered during the war, began to re-seek their old homes. It was truly a sad returning. No vestige of their once populous and flourishing settlement was left. Even the ruined foundations of their buildings were concealed amid the berry bushes and alders, which grew luxuriantly in the ground enriched by the ashes from their burned dwellings. The fields, once cleared with great labor, were covered over with sumach and poplar, intermingled with cherry and maple ; while the fences, marking the boundaries of their farms, or forming enclosures for their cattle, had been either burned by the Indians, destroyed by roving beasts, or rotted by the elements. The settlers who, returning from their grand struggle for liberty, poor in worldly goods and broken in health, laid the second foundations of Cherry Valley had need of even braver hearts and more stern determination than those who, forty years before, had laid the original



foundations. Their trials during the Revolution had fitted them for the task and they bravely faced the labors and hardships which awaited them. The struggle though hard was not long. Soon after peace was declared that great exodus from the Eastern States to the vast, and then unknown, West, which has continued uninterruptedly from that day to this, was begun. Lying on the main routes between the two sections, Cherry Valley, alike by the beauty of its scenery, its former fame, and the reputation of its inhabitants, attracted many of the emigrants and in a few years it was again the largest settlement south and west of the Mohawk.

In October, 1783, the settlement was honored with a visit from "the Father of his Country." Gen. Washington, accompanied by Gens. Clinton and Hand, and a number of other military officers and aides, rode up from Albany, by way of the Mohawk Valley, stopping to dine with Col. Samuel Clyde, then in command of the Fort at Canajoharie, on the 12th, and arriving at Cherry Valley the same afternoon. The distinguished party was entertained by Col. Samuel Campbell, at his newly re-built log cabin, until the following day, when they visited Otsego Lake; returning to the Mohawk by the old Continental road.

It is related in tradition that a reception was given in honor of the party, the entire settlement gathering in the main room of the cabin, and that Washington and his companions sat up until well into the

morning, listening to the wild border tales vividly related by the bolder among the settlers. And we are told that Robert Shankland, standing in the middle of the room, "fought his great battle o'er," with all the earnestness and zeal that characterized the real fight.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## EARLY CHURCH SOCIETIES.

As their fathers, when they settled in this wilderness, whose virgin beauty had never been marred by human hands, after they had builded their humble homes, turned their thoughts towards the erection of a House to God, so the exiles returning to the settlement whose every hill and dale showed the desolating marks of human barbarity, having on the ruins of their former homes erected again their rude dwellings, places for their temporal shelter, turned their thoughts toward their spiritual welfare. On the 5th of October, 1785, at a meeting of the "ancient inhabitants," for so the call reads, the Presbyterian Society was re-organized and Col. Samuel Clyde, John Campbell, jr., and James Willson were duly elected Trustees thereof. The names of the electors voting were as follows : Robert Shankland, Wm. Thompson, Samuel Ferguson, James Moore, jr., John Campbell, jr., Hugh Mitchell, Wm. Gault, James Cannon, Samuel Campbell, jr., Samuel Clyde, Samuel Campbell, Wm. Dickson, James Dickson, Daniel McCollum, John McKellip, Israel Wilson, Luther Rich, James Wilson, Thomas Whitaker, Benjamin Dickson and John Dunlap.

In this list we find but two new names. The others are all those of pre-Revolutionary settlers.—The two new residents voting were Thomas Whitar and Luther Rich. The latter was a wealthy and prominent citizen and represented Otsego County in the Legislature for many years, both as Assemblyman and Senator. The list is interesting as showing that the great influx from the East had just commenced. It was, however, very rapid from this time onward, for four years later we find the old residents far outnumbered by the new comers.

Though for several years after the re-organization of the Presbyterian Society no regular Pastor was stationed here, we learn, in various ways, that the Gospel was preached at irregular intervals by visiting ministers, mainly of the Presbyterian faith, although the inhabitants, the majority of whom were of that denomination, showed their freedom from bigotry, by freely attending services held by ministers of other denominations.

As early as 1787 we find the Rev. Mr. Russell, an Episcopal clergyman, of Connecticut, making the long journey from that State to Cherry Valley, at stated intervals, and here expounding the word of God alike to Episcopalian and Presbyterian. He continued making these trips until 1794, and the records are still extant of a number of marriages solemnized by him during that time. Whether, in view of the fact that the place was not during the decade from 1795 to 1805, sufficiently populous and

wealthy to support two ministers, there was a friendly agreement between the Episcopalians and Presbyterians to unite, or whether it was a case of "the survival of the fittest," or in plainer English of the stronger, does not appear; but that one or the other was the case is apparent from the following facts: During the time the Rev. Mr. Russell held Episcopal services there was no Presbyterian minister stationed here. Following the discontinuence of Mr. Russell's visit in 1794-5 the Presbyterians secured the regular services of the Rev. Eliphalet Nott, who continued to act as their Pastor until 1798; about the time that the celebrated Father Nash began to hold Episcopal services here. The latter continued his labors in this field until 1806, during which time the Presbyterians were without a minister, except for a brief period in 1803-4.—After that time the Presbyterians evidently became again the controlling factor in the religion of the town for in 1806 the Episcopalian society went out of corporate existance, while the Presbyterians continued to grow and flourish.

The Episcopalians seem to have been organized into a regular society as early as 1797, but it was not regularly incorporated until 1803, when it was duly incorporated under the title of "Trinity Episcopal Church." The Wardens and Vestrymen elected at that time were as follows: Ephraim Hudson and Elijah Holt, Wardens; Benjamin Gilbert, James Scott, John Dutcher, John Walton, John Marshall and Cy-

renus Stoddard, Vestrymen. Regular services were discontinued in 1806 but, as will appear later, it is probable that the corporation did not go out of legal existence until the organization of the present Society.

At some time between 1786 and 1790 the Presbyterians erected a Meeting House to supply the place of the frame Church destroyed at the time of the Massacre. At just what time the erection of this church edifice was begun is not known, nor when it was completed, but as the early Geographical Cyclopedias in speaking of Cherry Valley always mention the Church as a very "commodious and handsome building," the presumption is that the building was begun on a more pretentious plan than the means of the parish were equal to, and that accordingly it was several years in building.

It is an interesting fact, reminding us somewhat of the early Puritans, with their odd but necessary custom of carrying their guns to church, that when the Meeting called to re-organize the Presbyterian Church had performed its labors, another Meeting was at once held to organize a Company of Militia, or rather to re-organize the old Company which had been in existence prior to, and during, the Revolution. No difficulty was found in securing the proper officers,—the number of men in early Militia Companies seems to have been a minor consideration,—except that no officer could be found of the rank of Major. The company therefore proceeded to ap-

point its own Major in the person of James Thompson, a worthy man who had served with credit during the war. Although he never received any more formal commission, he lived and died "Major" Thompson, and it is related that during his later years he was exceedingly proud of having been promoted "on the field." A second Company of Militia was organized in 1799, and Cherry Valley became soon after quite a Military centre, and continued such until the opening of the Civil War.

A recruiting officer for the United States Army made his head quarters here as early as 1795.—Beardsley, in his "Reminiscences," states that in 1798 the recruiting officer for "John Adams' Army", as it was called, found it necessary to punish an obstreperous recruit by having him tied to a small sapling, back of the Academy, and thoroughly flogged. The tree, now a hugh elm, still stands on Mrs. Olcott's land to the south-east of the old Academy lot.

## CHAPTER IX.

## EARLY TAVERNS.

During the Summer of 1786 Thomas Whitaker erected a Tavern on the corner of Montgomery and Genesee streets—on the site of the old Tryon House. This is the first hotel, in this section of the country, of which we have any authenticated record. There is a tradition that there was a Tavern previous to the Revolution, on the present Moore property, opposite the Cemetery. This is quite possible, and indeed is very probable, since a settlement of three hundred people would be likely to have furnished ample support for a Tavern, in those free drinking days, but we find nothing but the presumption to attest to the truth of the tradition regarding it. A Tavern was, however, erected on this site a few years after the Revolution. This house, which was at the time the oldest building in the village, was torn down some ten or fifteen years ago.

The story is frequently told that there was a Tavern on the site of the present Raymond Eckerson house, in which Washington slept while here. This is, of course, an idle story, born in some fertile



imagination, but it has found many believers. The proof that Gen. Washington stayed at Col. Campbell's, while here, is unquestionable, and it is a further authenticated fact that there were no houses within the present village limits, at the time of Washington's visit. The Tavern on the Eckerson lot was built, about 1793, by Benjamin Johnson and was kept by him, and afterwards by Ezekiel Johnson, for many years. About the same time a Tavern was built, on the present site of the Central Hotel, by John Walton. Walton's Tavern was the most popular hostelry in this part of the State until William Story erected his famous Tavern, at the upper end of the village, about 1812. The latter was for many years the most famous Inn between Albany and Canadaigua and was the favorite stopping place of the leading men of the (then) West, on their way to and from the State Capital.

On the 6th day of May, 1800, Ephraim Hudson, Supervisor, and Joseph White and Elijah Holt, Justices, met as a Board of Excise at the house of John Walton and granted Licenses to the following Inn or Tavern keepers, viz: John Walton, Thomas Whitaker, Ozias Waldo, Naphtily Woodburn, Benjamin Johnson, Stephen Frink and Edward Williams, jun. These men are all certified to as being of good moral character, and it is further certified that "it is absolutely necessary for the benefit of travel that a Publick Inn or Tavern be kept" at the several places mentioned. Two years later licenses were again

granted to the above, except that John R. Whitaker had succeeded his father Thomas Whitaker, and to the following additional Inn keepers: Wm. Dickson, jun., Moses Woodburn, Daniel Clark, Elisha Flint, and Samuel Campbell, jun. Licenses were also granted to John Diell, Peter Magher and Moses Woodburn, store-keepers. This gives an excellent idea of the growth of travel, in this part of the State, during the two first years of the present Century.—There is no record that there was any charge for licenses at this time. After 1812, for many years, the charge for a Hotel license was \$7., and for Store-keeper's license \$5.

It is somewhat remarkable that nearly all of the early Inn-keepers accumulated fortunes, although the charge for meals or lodging was only six pence and whiskey sold for three pence a glass.

## CHAPTER X.

## FORMATION OF THE TOWN AND COUNTY.

In 1791 Otsego county was formed from Montgomery county, and an effort was made by the residents to have Cherry Valley appointed the County Seat. Owing to its more central location and the influence of the Coopers, combined, if we are to believe tradition, with political manipulation which would cause a modern "machine politician" to blush. Cooperstown, then in its infancy, secured the coveted prize. Cooperstown did not, however, in many years become a rival of Cherry Valley in general importance. James Cannon was appointed the first Surrogate of the County, and it is a little remarkable that he was also the first representative from this County in the State Legislature; holding at the same time the office of Surrogate and Member of Assembly. At the time of its formation the towns of Otsego and Cherry Valley, both formed at this time, constituted the entire County. Previous to this all this section had been included in the town of Canajoharie.

The first Supervisor of the Town of Cherry Valley was the afterwards renowned Dr. Joseph White.— John Bull was the first Town Clerk. The latter held

the office of Town Clerk for a number of years, receiving the very modest compensation of five dollars a year for his services.

It is an interesting fact, for several reasons, and especially as showing that frauds in voting, and illegal elections, are not of recent invention, that the vote of Cherry Valley at the first State election, after the formation of the town, was thrown out as illegal. The indirect result of this was the election of George Clinton as Governor. and the consequent defeat of Chief Justice Jay for that office. The reasons leading to the throwing out of the vote of this town—which necessitated the throwing out also of the vote of the county,—may be briefly stated: The election was held in April, 1792. Benjamin Gilbert, had been appointed Sheriff on the 30th of March, but did not qualify until the 11th of May. On May 3rd, Richard R. Smith, whose term of office had nominally expired on the 18th of February, forwarded to the Secretary of the State Board of Canvassers the votes of the Town of Cherry Valley with the proper certificate signed by himself as Sheriff.

The question was at once raised by the Clinton party, acting under the advice of Aaron Burr, then one of the foremost men in the state, that Smith was not legally Sheriff—his term of office having expired,—and had no authority to act as such, and that therefore the returns were null and void. The Clintonians, being in the majority on the Board of Canvassers, accordingly threw out the vote of Otsego

county. As Clinton only received 108 majority, and Otsego county gave Jay about 400, it will be seen that Cherry Valley at its first election, exerted a very decided influence in the affairs of the state—though in a negative sort of a way.

The contest over this incident, which was continued, in and out of the Legislature, for over a year, resulted in an attempt to impeach William Cooper, father of the novelist, then first Judge of Otsego county. Although the attempt at impeachment failed, it was shown that he had encouraged illegal voting in favor of Mr. Jay, and discouraged legal voting against him, even to the extent of threatening to use his authority as Judge against those expressing an intention of voting for Mr. Clinton. As Judge Cooper was a man of high standing in the community it shows that politics in the last Century were not as pure as some suppose them to have been.

## CHAPTER XI.

FROM 1795 TO 1800.

The decade ending with 1795 was a prosperous one for the now flourishing village. The tide of emigration was sweeping westward and the country for fifty miles beyond the borders of the county of Otsego was dotted with rude farm houses, while here and there settlements were springing up. Cherry Valley, as yet the largest village, profited by the increased emigration, not only from the trade that flowed to it from all the country to the west, but also because of the benefits derived from its being on the main thoroughfares to the regions beyond.

During this time the Academy was re-established and a commodious building, forty by sixty feet, was erected. In 1795 the Academy had about sixty students, a remarkably large number for those times and a proof of the extended reputation which it must already have acquired. It was during this time that the Rev. Soloman Spaulding, the principal of the Academy, wrote the Biblical romance, which afterwards fell into the hands of Joseph Smith, and was adopted by him as the basis of the Mormon

Bible. Soon after this the Trustees of the Academy called for Mr. Spaulding's resignation.

In 1795 the population of Cherry Valley, which then included the present Worcester towns, Springfield and Roseboom, was little short of 3000, yet the population of the village itself, although it was still the most important village west of Schenectady, was less than 350, and contained only 36 houses. From this time on, the growth of the village was proportionately more rapid than that of the surrounding country. Business men and storekeepers rushed in to supply the growing trade of the country, while lawyers, doctors, and other professional men, sought this as a central location in which to follow their professions. More hotels were needed to accommodate the ever increasing stream of travel and blacksmiths could hardly be found in sufficient numbers to supply the demand. Shoemakers, wheel-wrights, carpenters, and artisans of various kinds, made their way here and added to the growth and prosperity of the place. The Academy, too, increased greatly in members, from 1796 to 1798, under the direction of the renowned Dr. Nott, who in later years, as President of Union College, left the stamp of his individuality on so many generations of "Old Union's" sons.

An additional impetus was given to the growth of the village by the building of the Great Albany Turnpike, the first of those great arteries which carried the stream of travel to the west, until the building of the

Erie Canal diverted it to the valley of the Mohawk. The charter for this road was granted in 1799 and authorized the building of a Turnpike, beginning at the city of Albany and running through various towns to a terminus at the hotel of John Walton, in the village of Cherry Valley. In 1800 a charter was granted for the building of a Turnpike from Cherry Valley to the foot of Skaneateles Lake. James Fenimore Cooper, in his *Chronicles of Cooperstown*, speaks of a charter being granted in 1794 for a state road running from Albany, through Cherry Valley, to Cooperstown, but we find no evidence of such a road having been built. Cooper says that it took the entire day to drive from Cooperstown to Cherry Valley in 1795, a distance of thirteen miles. At this time the journey from Cherry Valley to Albany took about five days. Twenty-five bushels of wheat was considered a load. Wheat, delivered in Albany, was worth from \$1.50 to \$1.75 a bushel.

In 1797, the towns of Middlefield, Springfield and Worcester, were formed from Cherry Valley, reducing its population from 3000 to 1600. This reduction in the size of the town was not, however, felt by the village since it still remained the trading centre of the new towns.

On the 8th of February, 1796, the Cherry Valley Academy was regularly incorporated under the Regents of the State of New York. The Charter, which is signed by John Jay, Chancellor of the University, and DeWitt Clinton, Secretary, names Eli Parsons,



Luther Rich, Benjamin Rathbone, Lester Holt, Samuel Campbell, Ephraim Hudson, Ozias Waldo, C. P. Yates, William White, jr., Robert Dickson, Thomas Whitaker, Simeon Rich, Joseph White, Elijah Holt and Richard Edwards, as Trustees. An eminently respectable Board, and one that, it is to be feared, the place could not now, over a hundred years later, duplicate, either in prominence, ability, wealth or social standing.

At the close of the last Century, Cherry Valley had already become celebrated, throughout the country, as the home of many noted men, among whom were the Rev. Eliphalet Nott, afterwards the most famous College President of his day; Dr. Joseph White, then a leading member of the State Senate and later the leading physician of the State; Dr. William Campbell, afterwards State Engineer and Surveyor and a member of the Board of Regents; Judge Ephraim Hudson, a man of extended reputation for ability and worth; Gen. Elijah Holt, for many years prominent in Military circles; Isaac Seeley, one of the leading lawyers of the State; Senator Luther Rich, a prominent factor in the politics of this section of the State; Senator Robert Roseboom, a member of the Council of Appointment; Col. Samuel Campbell, of Revolutionary fame; Col. Libbeus Loomis, a prominent member of the "Cincinnati Society;" James Cannon, the first Surrogate and first member of Assembly of the county; Benjamin Gilbert who enjoyed the unusual distinction of

being four times Sheriff of the county; Eli Parsons, Major Lester Holt, Capt. Jerome Clark, C. P. Yates, Simeon Rich, Ephraim Hudson, Jr., Ozias Waldo, John Walton, Peter Magher, Robert Dickson, Horace Ripley, John Bull, Robert Dunlap and Thomas Whitaker—all men of consideration, either because of their ability, wealth, influence, or social position. One of the “characters” of that day was an old seaman, named William Cook, who was the “Ben Pump” of Cooper’s “Pioneers.” All of the men mentioned were residents of Cherry Valley between 1795 and 1800.

It is worthy of note that Cherry Valley was even at this early date, a place of considerable wealth. The early tax books show that there was more personal property here than in any town west of Schenectady.

In this connection it is to be remembered that wealth is always relative. As nearly as we can judge the purchasing power of money was from four to five times greater than it now is. Thus, as has been mentioned, meals at a hotel were six pence and whiskey three pence a glass; men were paid two shillings a day, for ordinary labor, and boys a shilling. Some things were, of course, worth proportionately more, and some less, but the average shows the purchasing power of money to have been about as stated. Luxuries were generally high but the necessities of life cost practically nothing. Wood could be had for the cutting, clothes were mainly home made, while butter, milk and meat, were worth comparatively

nothing. Little money passed hands in ordinary transactions, especially in the farming districts. A man working for a farmer was expected to take his pay in farm produce, or in orders on store-keepers,—which would be paid in produce. Old contracts show that the rent of a good farm, of from one to two hundred acres, was from fifteen to twenty-five dollars a year. Farms were usually rented for a term of from ten to twenty-five years. Between the amount of money in circulation, then and now, the disproportion was much greater. Although the place was noted for its wealth it is doubtful if a man in it was worth ten thousand dollars in 1800. Elisha Flint, who died in 1806, was considered a very well-to-do business man and yet his estate inventoried only \$3742.38.

## CHAPTER XII.

## CHERRY VALLEY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PRESENT CENTURY.

In 1800 Cherry Valley, although it contained less than five hundred inhabitants, was the most important village west of Schenectady. Commercially it was in advance of that city. Buffalo and Rochester had not yet been settled and, indeed, most of the country in the western part of the State was a wilderness. A number of villages rivalled this in the number of their people, but they did not compare with it in influence or traffic. The completion of the first Great Western Turnpike brought a vast addition to its trade, which was still further increased by the building of the second and third Great Western Turnpikes; the former chartered in 1801 and the latter in 1803—both running through Cherry Valley.

Among those who took up their residence here in the early part of the Century were: Jabez D. Hammond, Levi Beardsley, James O. Morse and James Brackett,—all of whom became men of great influence in the State, and Rev. Eli F. Cooley, a dis-

tinguished scholar and divine. In view of the fewness of College educated men, in those days, it is worthy of note that four of these six men were College graduates: Brackett from Dartmouth, Morse from Union, Cooley from Princeton and Stewart from a Vermont College. This fact is rendered the more noticeable when we recall that at no time within the past twenty-five years have there been more than half a dozen College graduates among the residents of Cherry Valley.

The influence that Cherry Valley exerted in the early part of the present Century is shown by the fact that the State Senator from this district was usually taken from here. Thus we find Dr. Joseph White representing the district in the Senate in 1796-7-8-9; Robert Roseboom in 1800-1-2-3-4; Luther Rich in 1808-9-10-11; Jabez D. Hammond in 1818-19-20-21. The latter was also a member of Congress in 1815-16-17. Of these men White, Roseboom, and Hammond, were members of the powerful Council of Appointment, which controlled practically all the offices in the State including most of the county offices. Cherry Valley was also well represented in the Assembly. The early representatives from this town in that body were Elijah Holt, 1798, Benjamin Gilbert, 1799, Robert Roseboom, 1800, Samuel Campbell, 1802, James Moore and Luther Rich, (two from this town), 1803. Luther Rich, 1806, Rob't. Roseboom, 1807-8, Benj. Gilbert, 1810, Rob't. Roseboom, 1811-12-14, Wm.

Campbell and Oliver Judd, 1816, (2), Wm. Campbell, 1817, John Moore 1818. About this time a fight arose between Cherry Valley and the rest of the county and it was some years before the former regained its old influence, so that for a number of years it was unrepresented in the State Legislature.

In 1806, Trinity Lodge, No. 139, F. & A. M., was organized and continued in operation until 1814, when it suspended until 1817. It was finally disbanded in 1828, and was not resurrected again until 1854, since which time it has been in successful operation. A Royal Arch Chapter was instituted in 1818. Its Charter was allowed to lapse in 1828. The Lodge was very active, in 1824, in rendering assistance to the Greeks in their struggle for freedom. A considerable amount of clothing and munition was collected and forwarded to Greece. Most of the men prominent in the history of the town, in the early part of the Century, were members of the Lodge and Chapter, including Joseph White, Delos White, Elijah Holt, Lester Holt, Abraham Roseboom, Alvin Stewart, Levi Beardsley, Jonathan Hall, Peter Magher, William Campbell, John Forester, George Clyde, Edwin Judd and Jabez D. Hammond. Some of these men were prominent in Masonic circles, notably John Forester, by whom most of early Lodges in this section of the State were instituted.

The first district school, of which we have any knowledge, was erected at the head of the lane west of the present Methodist Parsonage, early in the

present Century. The expense of running the school, including the pay of the teacher, was divided per capita between the scholars, except that the trustees were authorized to exempt poor pupils from the payment of tuition and charge same against the other scholars. No public money was received by the village school until after it was re-organized as a Lancaster School in 1818. The School district was re-organized and reduced in size in 1815. The number of the district was also changed from 3 to 13. John R. Whitaker, Horace Ripley and Jonathan Rudd were elected Trustees of the new district.—The number of scholars in attendance in that year (1815) was 121. One teacher was employed. At that time a teacher was compelled to pass an examination before the Town Inspector of Schools, before being permitted to teach. In 1818, the electors of the district voted to purchase a new site and erect a School house thereon at a cost of \$1200. The building erected at that time is still occupied by the village school. The first Trustees of the Lancaster School were Joseph Clyde, Peter Magher and Oliver Judd.

That the village, early in the Century, had begun to assume a metropolitan air is shown by the fact that in 1802 a village pound was erected for the confinement of stray horses and cattle. In 1810 a new pound was erected and ordinances were passed making the owner of any gelding, mare or colt, running loose, subject to a fine of fifty cents a head, one half



of said fine to be paid to the person driving said animals to the pound, the remainder to accrue to the village. A similar fine was charged for neat cattle running loose. Owners of stallions, running loose, were charged the large fine of twelve dollars and fifty cents. Swine, rams and geese, were seized and sold for the benefit of the town.

For many years all the monies belonging to the town or village, were loaned out, to such of the inhabitants as could furnish good sureties, at the prevailing rate of interest.

The war of 1812 attracted very little attention in Cherry Valley and aroused no enthusiasm. In fact it was generally looked upon as a political matter; the republicans favoring and the federalists opposing it. The main fact of interest connected with it, so far as this town is concerned, was the drawing of lots in the village square. All the drafted men in this section were gathered together in the square and drew lots from a hat. Those drawing blanks were dismissed; the others were enlisted. Wm. Paddock, whom older residents will remember better as "Old Billy Paddock," was then a boy of sixteen; too young to be drafted, but not too young to serve. It was a common custom for drafted men to pay some one to "stand their chance" at the "drawing." Young Paddock received ten dollars apiece from seven men for "standing their chance," and in each case drew a blank. Finally he received thirty dollars to serve in the stead of someone less fortunate



in the military lottery and went to the war, serving through it with credit. The hundred dollars which he received on the day of the drawing, made him the envy of all his companions, and, as he often said in later life, "the richest boy in the village." Poor fellow! he was far from being the "richest man" in the village, having been supported for a number of years previous to his death, in the seventies, by the Masonic Order.

The others who served in the war of 1812, and have died within the recollection of the older generations, were Asa Glazier, Aaron VanDyke, John Dutcher, James McKellip, Samuel Davy, John Boyce, Silas Hill, Wm. Graig and James Boyle.

In 1715 Cherry Valley, for the second time, indirectly exercised a deciding influence on the politics of the State. Although only a coincidence, which might have happened to any town, it is a matter of local interest that this town should have twice turned the political scales of the State. The present case is one of general interest as showing how small a matter may sometimes change the politics of a great State. The election of 1815 was hotly contested by both parties and the result was exceedingly close.—There were five members of Assembly elected from this county; all being republicans, with the exception of Dr. Wm. Campbell, of Cherry Valley, whose ability and personal popularity caused him to run ahead of his ticket. He was elected by ONE vote. By a singular coincidence his vote gave the Federalists

the control of the Legislature, also by ONE vote, and the consequent control of the State, through the Council of Appointment.

## CHAPTER XIII.

WITCHCRAFT. SLAVES. EARLY CUSTOMS, SPORTS, ETC.

It will doubtless surprise many people to learn that, early in the Century, witchcraft was quite generally believed in among the country people in this section. The various ailments which effected a farmer's cattle were usually laid at the door of some old woman, who was accused of being a witch.—Beardsley in his "Reminiscences" says: "Within seven miles of Cherry Valley is a valuable farm from which two acres of the best land was carved out, and conveyed, to settle a claim, for having charged a woman with witchcraft, and that by her witcheries she had destroyed his property. She still holds the property, (1852) under this witch consideration for the title, having refused to sell it back although the original owner has offered a high price for it. In the same neighborhood lived a man who was a seventh son, and has been sent for hundreds of times, to charm away, or take off the witch spell from those effected."

Slaves were common in this section prior to 1825, especially household servants. Male negroes gen-

erally succeeded in purchasing or, in other ways, securing their freedom. Oftentimes male slaves were promised their freedom at the end of a stated period, in order to stimulate them to work more faithfully. It was necessary to record the birth of a child born of slave parents in order to entitle the owner of the parent, or parents, to its services when the child became of age. The early town records contain a copy of the certificates issued, in a number of such cases, of which the following are samples:

"On the 28th of August, 1803, a child of color was born in my house of my negro wench, she being a slave for life.—The child is a male and is called Ben.

JOSEPH WHITE.

Registered 23rd March, 1804.

I. SEELYE, Town Clerk.

"On the fifth day of September, 1803, was born in my house, of my negro woman, a slave for life, a child of color. The child is a male. His name is Harry.

THOMAS WHITAKER.

Registered 2nd June, 1804., etc.

The following is a copy of a certificate relating to the freeing of slaves :

"Whereas a certain negro man named Bob, formerly the slave of Capt. Peter Low, and now the slave of Abraham Roseboom, whom he has served for the term of seven years, at which time he has been promised his freedom, and whereas he is now desirous of being legally manumitted by his said master, We, the Overseers of the Poor for the Town of Cherry Valley, do hereby certify that we have received sufficient proof that he is under the age of forty-five years and of sufficient ability to provide for himself.

Dated, this 31st day of December, 1817.

JAMES CHURCH, } Overseers of  
THOS. THOMPSON, } the Poor.

The above certificate is given on the express condition that the above named slave be manumitted to-morrow.

ABRAHAM ROSEBOOM.

Rec'd and Recorded Jan. 5th, 1818.

JOSEPH B. WALTON, Town Clerk.

Sales of slaves were never common in Cherry Valley. They were usually brought by families moving here from other sections and were looked upon as a part of the household. Sales were occasionally made however, and as late as 1818 we find the publishers of the Cherry Valley GAZETTE offering "a good healthy negro girl of 18", for sale.

Lawsuits were an unending source of entertainment in the country districts. It is perhaps unnecessary to state that "the dignity of the law" was very generally ignored at them. For the convenience of the neighborhood the sessions of the "Court" were held in the evening. Before the trial opened it was considered incumbent upon each of the contestants to "treat" the crowd. After the trial commenced the clients used their own judgement as to the amount of treating they should do; but as public opinion was likely to swing in favor of the party who was most liberal in supplying liquors, few had occasion to go dry. A jug of whiskey usually stood on the table for the especial benefit of the Justice and the lawyers. Trials generally lasted until well into the night, by which time the Court, Jury and spectators were usually in a condition to take little interest in the proceedings. Blackguardism was a strong weapon with many of the "pettifoggers" and always

delighted the spectators. Beardsley, who was afterwards President of the State Senate, relates his experience with one of the pettifoggers, who was accustomed to win his cases by browbeating the opposing lawyer. Being prepared for the occasion, at the first attempt of his opponent to cast ridicule upon him, Beardsley, reaching across the table, seized the bully by the collar, pulled him over the table and, giving his nose a tweak, threatened him with dire punishment, if he made any further disparaging remarks. This summary proceeding completely quelled the pettifogger and took from him his only weapon of offense and defense, so that Beardsley easily won his case. In the larger villages, however, considerable dignity was maintained in the Justices' Courts and the Justices themselves were usually men of excellent judgement and some legal ability.

Some of the customs, of the early days, would seem more than passing strange in this age. It was then common to see even married women of quite well-to-do families, trudging along barefoot, carrying their shoes in their hands to avoid getting them soiled. Children always went barefoot except to church. Carriages were rarely seen, women as well as men traveling on horseback. It was no uncommon thing for a young man to take his girl on horseback with him, she riding behind, to a dance or ball—frequent amusements in those days. Fourth of July Balls were the great social event of the year. Dancing was begun before dinner and continued

until daybreak the following morning, cakes and wine being passed around, so as not to interfere with the dancing. Fiddlers were scarce and in great demand. Brayton Allen, of Cherry Valley, was the most celebrated fiddler in this part of the country and went great distances to furnish music at dances.

Drinking was freely indulged in. When a party of men met, instead of each drinking from a separate glass, a large bowl was mixed, from which each of the party drank in turn; the last man drinking calling for another. The carousals which were indulged in, by men of the highest standing, would shock a country community in these days.

Quoit pitching and wrestling were the most common sports indulged in by men. Every Tavern had its quoit grounds, and around them were nearly always congregated a crowd of players and spectators. A crowd changing with every arrival or departure of the almost endless string of stages, freight and emigrant wagons. Constant practice made many of the drivers and teamsters remarkably expert, and wagers over games were frequent. Some became semi-professionals and matches were made between them for large sums—sometimes as high as two or three hundred dollars. All classes engaged in the sport.

Wrestling was mainly confined to teamsters, hostlers and the rougher and lower classes, though the better part of the community freely viewed the contests, and made wagers on the results. A man named Slocum, who made Cherry Valley his headquarters

the greater part of the time, claimed to be the champion wrestler of the state. He engaged only in contests for money. Several thousand dollars were sometimes wagered on him.

Foot races were common among the boys and young men, of all classes. The famous runners, of Cherry Valley, in the 'twenties, were Joseph White and John K. Diell. The latter will be remembered by residents of this town twenty-five years ago, as an active old man of over eighty. He was the fastest runner in this part of the country, but being a trainer and semi-professional, he was barred out of most of the races. Sims, in his "Frontiersmen," gives the following account of a foot-race, in which much interest was taken in Cherry Valley.

"The most important foot-race that ever took place in the Mohawk Valley, occurred at Canajoharie in August, 1824, between Joseph White of Cherry Valley and David Spraker of Palatine. They were both young men from the best families in the community and had just graduated from Union College. The stakes were \$1,000, and the course ten rods.—The race was won by Spraker by three feet. Had they run twice as far it was conceded that White would have been the winner. Spraker was trained by John K. Diell, then a school teacher in Sharon."

Hunting was a favorite pastime. The woods were full of small game, and deer were numerous up to the beginning of the second quarter of the Century. Bears, which had been numerous in the earlier days,



had been either all killed or driven to seek more wild retreats. Beardsley speaks of having himself shot the last bear killed in this town. Evidently about 1818, although he does not give the exact date.

As early as 1804 a Hunting Club was organized. The Club met once a year,—usually the day before Christmas. The day was spent in hunting, and at night the sportsmen met at Walton's, or Story's, tavern and counted their spoils. The member having scored the greatest number of points was awarded a prize. The remainder of the night, and usually the greater part of Christmas day, was spent in celebrating the success of the "Hunt." All of the men who were prominent in the history of the town at this time were either active or honorary members of this Club. The honorary members engaged only in the festivities. The Club, in later years, was called "The Fox-hunters Club," and a record was kept, by each member, of the game shot by himself during the year.

Trout were the only fish in the brooks. According to tradition they grew to enormous size and were too plenty to be considered a very great delicacy. Many of the prominent men of the State were accustomed to make visits, of various length, at Cherry Valley to enjoy the hunting, fishing and hospitalities of the place—and incidently to discuss politics with Judges Hammond, Morse, Levi Beardsley and Alvan Stewart, then among the political leaders of the state.

Horse races were held twice a year, near the old

Lewis place, on the road to Ft. Plain and Canajoharie.

The Maple Sugar season was not only a time of money making but of pleasure as well. Nearly all the sugar consumed in the country up to 1825 was home-made, and a large amount was also sent to Albany and New York. Col. Samuel Campbell was the largest sugar maker in this part of the country in the earlier years of the Century, employing from ten to fifteen men regularly during the sap season. His "bush" extended from the upper end of the village to the present Moore farm, a distance of over a mile. Most of the boiling down was done in the open air, although some of the larger "bushes" had sugar huts, as much for the pleasure of sugar parties as for the convenience of the boilers. Pleasure parties were frequently formed, by the men of the village, and sometimes several days were spent by them in the sugar bushes; provision and drinkables, especially the latter, being taken with them. The days were spent in hunting and sleeping and the nights in drinking and story-telling. A species of forerunner of the modern "camping-out" custom.

## CHAPTER XIV.

## INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE. EARLY GOVERNMENT, ORDINANCES, ETC.

On the 8th of June, 1812, an Act was passed by the Legislature regularly incorporating the village of Cherry Valley and on September 4th, of the same year, the first village election was held. William Campbell, Oliver Judd, Peter Magher, Jabez D. Hammond and Jonathan Hall were elected the first Trustees of the village. At a subsequent meeting of the Board of Trustees, Peter Magher was elected President and Levi Beardsley, Clerk. Jonathan Rudd was appointed Treasurer; Levi Beardsley, Attorney, and Horace Ripley, Overseer of Highways. Two of the trustees were appointed Fire Wardens. and were instructed to examine all fire-places, chimneys and stove pipe, in the village, with power to condemn same if defective. Resolutions were also passed requiring "each owner, or occupant, of a store, house, or shop, to keep at least two fire buckets, marked with the name of the owner, in a conspicuous place." At the second Annual Meeting of the Village, held on the 11th day of May, 1813, it was

voted to raise One Hundred dollars for the purpose of repairing the roads and walks, and One Hundred dollars for the purpose of "Organizing a Fire Company." The following year a further sum of One Hundred and Fifty dollars was voted for the express purpose of purchasing a Fire Engine. Fire hooks and ladders were also ordered to be purchased. It was also "Resolved, that the Treasurer be directed to loan the money now in his hands, at the lawful interest, on good securities, until called for by the Trustees of said Village."

In November, 1814, the supply of silver and copper coins had become so scarce that Bills or Notes were issued by the Village to the amount of \$500. These Bills were in denominations of 1ct, 3cts, 6cts, 12½cts and 25 cents, and were payable in current Bank Bills, at the office of the President of the village. A month later Bills of twenty-five and fifty cents were issued to the amount of One Thousand dollars.—Several business men also issued small Bills at this time. Two years later the Trustees passed a Resolution prohibiting the issuing of small Bills.

In August, 1818, the first regular Fire Company was organized. It was composed of 20 members.—George Farley was Captain; Illustrious Remington, Engineer, and Chester Judd Secretary.

Among the early ordinances was one making any person, or persons, "encouraging dog-fighting in the streets," punishable by a fine of not less than \$5.—Another prohibited the blowing of horns or beating

of drums in the street, without a permit from the Trustees. Anyone leaving wood or boxes on the sidewalk was liable to a fine of one dollar.

The following facts are given for their local interest: Church street was opened in 1816. The several streets in the village were named in 1818. There has been no change in the names since. A street was opened, in 1821, between Main and Lancaster streets. It was called "Rock Street." It is now known as "Wall street." Hay Scales were erected by the Village in 1818. They stood in front of the Bank. In 1820 the first Reservoir was built. It was "in the center of the village," wherever that may have been. We are told that it was directly back of the Hay Scales. It is somewhat singular that, in 1820, Levi Beardsley was appointed Overseer of Highways. He was even at that time a man of prominence and wealth. Two attributes we do not now expect Village Highway Commissioners to possess.

The advance that the Village has made in the past eighty years is shown by the fact that the average expense of running the village from 1815 to 1825 was a little less than \$100 a year. It is now somewhat over \$2000 a year, although the village is a trifle smaller than it was then, (in population), and its business interests are vastly inferior in importance and numbers. At every village election, for many years, an attempt was made to increase the usual appropriation of \$100 but it was invariably voted down.

The most remarkable fact, connected with the village government, was the character of the men who held village offices during the first thirty years of its legal existance. Thus at one time we find Dr. Wm. Campbell, LL. D., Jabez D. Hammond, LL. D., both, afterwards, members of the Board of Regents, and Levi Beardsley, afterwards, President of the State Senate, among the Village Trustees. It is safe to say no village in the country ever had a trio of equal ability on its Board of Trustees. And this Board can scarcely be called an exception to the rule. Nearly every Board contained men of exceptional ability and of extended reputation.

## CHAPTER XV.

FROM 1815 TO 1825.

In 1815 Cherry Valley had reached its greatest relative importance. It continued to grow in wealth and size, but its growth, in the latter respect especially, was slow and it was soon left far behind by the now rapidly growing villages of Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, and many others. The great ability and reputation of many of its citizens continued to give it, for many years, a prominence far greater than that of many places greatly exceeding it in population. The rapid growth of the country to the west also added to the business and wealth of the place, as the greater part of the travel, to and from that section, passed through it. How great this traffic was, is shown by the fact that, at this time, there were 62 Taverns between Albany and Cherry Valley,—a distance of 52 miles. That this place must have benefitted enormously from, and been a great centre for, this trade, is clearly indicated by the fact that there were fifteen Taverns and ten retail liquor stores in the town. In addition to these there were four distilleries—on the present Thomas

Wikoff farm, at Flint's, on East Hill and at Salt Springville,—and one brewery; the latter being also on the Wikoff farm. There were eight blacksmith shops, giving employment to from four to eight men each, and at one time 110 stage horses were kept in the village. In addition to the through stage lines from Albany and the New England States to Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo and the West, local stage lines connected Cherry Valley with Albany, Schenectady, Catskill, Canajoharie, Burlington, Monticello, the Worcester towns, Cooperstown and Utica. Stages were usually drawn by six horses, though eight, and even ten, horses were used at times. Regular freight transportation lines were also run between Albany and Buffalo. Huge wagons capable of drawing from three to four tons, drawn by seven horses, were used on these lines. They moved slowly, the journey from Albany to Buffalo often taking two weeks. These wagons had tires six inches wide and were allowed to pass through the numerous toll-gates free of charge, owing to the fact that their wide tires were of great benefit to the roads by filling in the ruts made by ordinary wagons. This enormous traffic caused a great demand for horses and the price of those animals, which had been from twenty-five to thirty dollars, in 1800, had risen to from seventy-five to one hundred and fifty dollars by 1820. Much above the price which ordinary horses now command in this section. It is said that the first horse in this part of the country which sold for an equivalent of



over a hundred dollars, was an unusually fine one belonging to John Wilson. He sold it, about 1809, to Thomas Shankland of Cooperstown; receiving in return twenty thousand feet of pine lumber. A great "bee" was held and the lumber was drawn from Shankland's mill, below Cooperstown, in one day.

In 1818 the Central Bank was chartered and began operations on Tuesday, Oct. 8. It was, we believe, the first Bank in the State west of Albany, with the exception of one started the year previous, at Schenectady, and was for twenty years the most powerful financial institution in Central New York. It was frequently asserted that its great influence was used to prevent the chartering of other country Banks by the Legislature. The idea of a country Bank controlling the Legislature, in this age, would seem little short of ridiculous. But the fact that Beardsley, who was, at the same time, President of the Bank, and President of the State Senate, takes pains, in his "Reminiscences," to explain his position on the subject of country Banks, leads to the inference that there may have been some foundation for the accusation; more especially as the Bank was represented in the Legislature for many years, and numbered among its Directors and Stockholders some of the most powerful men in the State. The first President of the Bank was Dr. Joseph White; the Cashier being Abraham M. Schemerhorn. The latter afterwards moved to Rochester and was for many years the leading financier of Western New

York. The Directors were: Joseph White, David Little, Elias Braman, Jabez D. Hammond, Barnabas Eldredge, Levi Beardsley, James O. Morse, William Campbell, Delos White, Peter Magher, William Beekman, Henry Brown and Isaac Seelye. Several of these men were residents of neighboring towns.—In 1819 nearly all of the country Banks in the State failed, or temporarily suspended; the Central, however, weathered the financial storm without trouble, although the Directors deemed it advisable to personally guarantee the redemption of its notes. The Bank since its organization has had but six Presidents, viz: Dr. Joseph White, Dr. David Little, Senator Levi Beardsley, Senator David H. Little, Horatio J. Olcott and Wm. H. Baldwin.

The same year (1818) the Cherry Valley GAZETTE was started by L. and B. Todd. Two papers had previously been established here—the Otsego Republican, in 1812, and the Watchtower, in 1813.—The latter was removed to Cooperstown in 1814.—How long the former was published we have no means of knowing. With the exception of a short break in the later sixties, the GAZETTE has been published down to the present time.

On Monday, Dec. 7, 1818, a lime kiln, belonging to David Hamilton, gave way and instantly killed his son, John Hamilton, aged 14 years. This was the first fatal accident known to have occurred in the town.

There were at this time four companies of infantry

in Cherry Valley, composing the greater part of the 112th Regiment, which had its head-quarters here. There were also three companies of artillery. Of the higher officers in the Militia, Levi Beardsley was Judge Advocate and Delos White, Hospital Surgeon of the 16th Division of Infantry; Abraham M. Schemerhorn was Paymaster of the 2nd Brigade and Major Lester Holt was Inspector. In this year (1818) there were 4000 Militia in Otsego county, divided into seven Regiments. The head-quarters of the several Regiments were as follows: The 112th at Story's Tavern in Cherry Valley; 7th at Todd's, in Worcester; 2nd at Munn's, in Cooperstown; 60th at Craft's, in Laurens; 125th at Danielson's in Butter-nuts; 54th at Sheldon's, in Burlington; 135th at Loomis', in Richfield. In this year of our Lord, 1898, one lonely company, of less than 100 men, constitutes the Militray force of Otsego county.

The population of the county was about the same as now. The country, outside of the villages, was much more thickly settled than it now is. The increase in the prices of farm products, in the eighteen years since the Century opened, was remarkable, and it is somewhat singular that prices for them were practically the same as at the present time. Butter was worth 18cts a pound and cheese 10cts. Cows sold for from \$25 to \$35; and farm horses were worth about \$60. The estimated amount of woolen and linen cloth made in families was 456,156 yards. Now none is made. The shipment of pine lumber was

then an important industry. Much wheat was also shipped. Both are now imported in large quantities.

In 1819 the "Bachelor's Club" was formed. It was originally started as a debating Society, but gradually took on a more social form and finally became the leading social organization in this section. Its parties were attended by the young people of the neighboring towns, whose social position was considered sufficiently high to entitle them to recognition, and were, what would now be termed very "swell" affairs. The Club continued in existence about ten years. It was composed largely of law and medical students, of whom there were many in the offices of the famous lawyers and doctors then resident here, and of the older students in the Academy.

In this year numerous meetings were held, throughout the country, to protest against the extravagance in the management of public affairs, especially in the payment of high salaries to officials. A meeting was held at the "Bank Coffee House," on July 31, 1819, at which Alfred Crafts presided, and Alvan Stewart acted as Secretary. The following Committee was appointed to draw up and circulate a petition to the Legislature demanding a reduction in the expenses of the State government, viz: Peter Magher, James S. Campbell, Delos White, James Brackett, Oliver Judd, Levi Beardsley, James O. Morse. In that year the total amount raised for taxes of all kinds,—village, school, town, county and

state,—in the town of Cherry Valley, (then including Roseboom) was \$1247.38. About \$17,000 a year is now raised by tax, in this town, although it has declined in wealth, size, population and importance, since 1819.

In 1823 an attempt was made to form a new county, of which Cherry Valley was to be the “county seat,” to be composed of the towns of Cherry Valley, Springfield, Middlefield, Westford, Decatur, Maryland and Worcester, in Otsego county; the town of Sharon in Schoharie county, and Canajoharie and Minden, in Montgomery county. The ill feeling which had existed between Cherry Valley and Cooperstown, since the formation of Otsego county, was the indirect cause of the attempt to form a new county. There was a strong sentiment in favor of the project in most of the towns, but the men in Cherry Valley who had the greatest influence refused to take an active part in the matter, doubtless from political motives, and the Legislature declined to erect the new county.

It was customary, after the establishment of a newspaper here, to publish a list of the letters lying uncalled for in the Cherry Valley post-office,—as is now done in many of the larger town and cities.—The lists published by J. B. Walton, P. M., in 1818, and Oliver Judd, P. M., in 1824, give the names of from a hundred to a hundred and thirty persons, for whom letters were lying “uncalled for.” Showing that this office must have been of considerable im-

portance, and that it must have furnished postal facilities for a large territory.

Every business carried on in Cherry Valley in 1898, was represented here in 1820; including Marble Works, Cabinet Shop, Iron Foundry, Bookstore, Drug Store, Millinery Shop, Dentists, etc. Establishments we should not expect to have found in any but the very largest places, at that time. Among the industries, not here now, were Tanneries, Distilleries, Hat Factories, Last Factories, Truss Works, a Brass Foundry, etc. Some of these were small affairs.

On the 12th of September, 1824, died Col. Samuel Campbell, the last survivor of the original settlers of Cherry Valley, at the age of eighty-six years and four months. Few men have ever passed through a more eventful life than Col. Campbell. Coming, as a child, to this, then, wilderness, he had seen it grow into the most prominent and flourishing settlement west of Schenectady; only to be completely destroyed by the Indian and Tory hordes. Returning to the valley, once more a wilderness, he had watched it grow into the most important and influential village west of the Hudson. As a youth he had numbered among his playmates the wild and uncivilized Indian youth, and as a man among his friends Washington, the Clintons, and most of the great men of the post-Revolutionary period. He may be said, literally, to have lived in Colonial, Revolutionary and modern times, and to have been a companion

and associate of representatives of the wildest and most bloodthirsty races of red men that have peopled America, and of the most cultured generations of Anglo-Americans,—for whatever may have been the advance in the various branches of learning, and the improvement in the arts and sciences, no later generation has equalled the higher classes of the post-Revolutionary period in true culture and refinement.

In the same year (May 31, 1824,) died Mrs. Catherine Clyde, widow of Col. Samuel Clyde, whose escape, with seven small children, at the time of the Massacre, is recorded in a previous chapter. The early records show her to have been a very superior woman—a true type of the American woman of the Revolution.



## CHAPTER XVI.

## THE MEN WHO MADE CHERRY VALLEY FAMOUS.

The opening of the Erie Canal, in 1825, was a serious blow to Cherry Valley. Prior to this the great bulk of the travel and traffic from the New England States to the west, passed through Cherry Valley and paid heavy tribute to it as one of the leading commercial centers on the route. The greater part of this trade was henceforth lost to it, although emigrant trains continued, for some years after, to roll through the village, on their way to the great west. The growth of the country, south of the canal, helped, in a measure, to offset the loss caused by the diversion of the general traffic to the Valley of the Mohawk, but the almost continuous line of stage coaches, which contributed the most liberally to the business of the place, no longer passed through its portals, and the literally unending caravan of horses, wagons, sheep and cattle, dwindled into a broken succession of teams and droves.

It was at this time, however, the home of many men of great ability, and extended reputation, and these gave it, for many years, a reputation great-



er than any other place in the State, outside of the larger cities. Especially was this true of its lawyers. Among these were Jabez D. Hammond, Alvin Stewart, James O. Morse, James Brackett, Levi Beardsley and Isaac Seelye. The history of this country, and probably of the whole world, presents no other case in which a village of less than a thousand people has possessed, at one time, so great an array of legal talent, in active and successful practice. How extensive the practice of these men must have been, is shown from the fact that, coming here as poor young men in the early part of the Century, (Seelye 1797, the others from 1802 to 1810), they had, in a country where money was scarce, all, with the exception of Brackett whose jovial habits prevented, become wealthy men by 1825. At this time these five were considered among the rich men in Central New York.

Jabez D. Hammond, LL. D., was at various times State Senator and a Member of the Council of Appointment, Congressman, a Member of the Board of Regents, Commissioner for the State in the settlement of claims against the National Government and for the laying out of State Roads. He also held many minor offices such as Member of Assembly, County Judge and County Superintendent of Schools. His "Political History of the State of New York," was one of the famous books of his day and gave him considerable literary prominence, both at home and abroad, which was increased by his "Life and

Times of Silas Wright." Both works showing marked literary ability, much research and an intimate knowledge of, and acquaintance with, public men. Beardsley says of him: "As a Member of Congress and State Senator, and in short in all his official relations, which have been many, he has acquitted himself with distinguished tact and ability. Few men in the State have been more shrewd and adroit politicians than Judge Hammond. His suggestions, in reference to public policy, and his influences have frequently extended to remote parts of the state, though the mover was not publicly visible, as the suggestor. Devoted to Gov. Clinton and one of his principal advisors for many years, he probably contributed as much as any one in the state, in sustaining the fortune and ascendancy of that truly great man."

Alvan Stewart, became one of the most celebrated and widely known of this sextette, and was said to be one of the most effective men before a jury, the State has ever known. His drolleries and satires of wit were irresistible and always carried a jury.—Lincoln was an exact prototype in manner and wit but he lacked Stewart's culture and education. It was characteristic of him that when he came to Cherry Valley, not having a penny in his pocket, he made a bargain with the stage driver to amuse him with stories enough to pay for the ride. He commenced life by teaching in the Academy, at the same time studying law. He accumulated a very hand-

some fortune in his profession. As a politician he was a failure; always managing to enlist on the weaker and unsuccessful side. He was a candidate for Governor in 1842 and again in 1844.

James O. Morse was the most scholarly of this line of great lawyers. His tastes were literary and he was a frequent contributor to the leading periodicals of the day. Through his pen he exerted a wide influence on the politics of the state. His acquaintance with the leading men of the country was very large, and he entertained many of them at his hospitable mansion in this village. He was President of the Central Deaf and Dumb Asylum and held the office of County Judge, then a position of considerable importance. (Prior to the revision of the Judicial Department by the Constitutional Convention of 1846). He was a wealthy man and contributed very liberally to the support of Colleges, Academies, and religious and charitable institutions. Beardsley says of him: "In many respects he had few superiors in the state;" and in speaking of his death adds, "few men have died in Otsego County, whose death was a greater calamity to the community, than that of James O. Morse."

Isaac Seelye was the superior of any of his contemporaries in legal knowledge and it is questionable whether he had an equal, during his lifetime, in Central New York, in this respect. He was often spoken of as the "country law library." He early amassed a handsome fortune, from his extensive

practice, and during his later years mainly confined himself to office business. The Otsego County History says of him: "He was one of the ablest and most forcible exponents of the law the county has ever had."

James Brackett, was a graduate of Dartmouth College, a brilliant scholar, a learned lawyer, and, perhaps unfortunately for himself, a very jovial gentleman. His love of sports and pleasure led him to avoid the worries and frets of politics, and the only political office held by him was that of Surrogate of Otsego county. His ability was, however, so marked that he has passed down to posterity a reputation as great as that of his more prominent compeers. He died possessed of a comfortable competence.

Levi Beardsley, LL. D., was not only a distinguished lawyer, a politician of National importance and a prominent and able financier, but he was also possessed of considerable literary ability; his "Reminiscences" being one of the most ably written books of its kind. He was State Senator from 1830 to 1838, and was President of the Senate during the latter part of that period. He was also a Member of Assembly, President of the Central Bank, then the leading financial institution of Central New York, President of the Oswego Bank, and a State Director of the Farmers' Loan and Insurance Company, of New York,—the largest financial concern in the State, having a capital stock of \$2,000,000. His large for-

tune was swept away in the panic of 1837.

The other lawyers in active practice in Cherry Valley at this time were Geo. Clyde and Horace Lathrop—both men of very respectable ability.—The former was County Clerk of Otsego County 1834-7, and later Judge of Columbia County, and also a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1846, from that county. Lathrop was County Clerk from 1831 to 1834.

The members of the Medical profession, though fewer in number, were no less prominent than the legal fraternity. Of these the most distinguished was Doct. Joseph White, who was not only the leading surgeon of the State, but whose general practice covered a greater extent of territory than that of any other reputable physician in the State, before or since. He was President of Fairfield Medical College, President of the New York State Medical Society, and the first President of the Otsego County Medical Society. Nor was it in Medicine alone that he was prominent, but in social, political and business life as well. Although he had no legal training, he was, for 23 years, First Judge of Otsego County. He was also, for several years, State Senator and a member of the powerful Council of Appointment. He was the first President of the Central Bank and, indeed, was prominent in all the leading affairs of Central and Western New York.—His vigorous and versatile intellect seemed to fit him for every position to which he was called. All in all,

he was unquestionably one of the greatest men the State has produced. Beardsley, whom we quote frequently, as the best authority, says, in speaking of him: "As an operator in Surgery he was highly distinguished, and for many years justly regarded as standing at the head of his profession. \* \* \* In his politics he was a high-toned federalist, and exercised much authority and influence with his party, to which, from his position and standing in society, he was justly entitled." Hammond's Political History states that Dr. White's influence was so great with the Council of Appointment, that he was able to secure the appointment of Major Daniel Hall, of Albany, to the vacant office of Secretary of State, despite the strong opposition of Gov. Jay. (1799).

The following extract from the Biography of Dr. Joseph White in "Williams' Memoirs of Eminent Physicians," (1840), is interesting as showing the great change that has taken place in the habits and means of conveyance of doctors, since the early part of the Century: "He filled a large space in his profession and his calls and rides extended from Albany to Buffalo, about three hundred and fifty miles.—His mode of traveling was on horseback. Few men could endure so great a measure of fatigue from this method of traveling. He at one time rode from Albany to his place of residence in Cherry Valley, fifty-three miles, without stopping. At another time he rode from Buffalo to Batavia, forty miles, before taking his breakfast."

Dr. Delos White, although his life was cut short before he had reached the age when men usually attain their greatest prominence, enjoyed a reputation for ability, in surgery especially, little inferior to that of his famous parent. Beardsley says of him: "Dr. Delos White, had for several years before the death of his father, acquired a reputation in his profession of nearly equal celebrity. He too had been at the head of one of the departments (anatomy) in the medical college, already mentioned, and on the decease of his senior was looked upon as almost the only man who could fill the place of his deceased but distinguished ancestor, whom he survived but a few years, having died in 1835." An old Ledger, of Delos White's, shows an extent of practice both as regards territory and remuneration, which would seem almost incredible to a country practitioner in these days.

Dr. Menzo White, whose active practice began prior to 1830 and extended into the present half of the Century, enjoyed a reputation with the medical fraternity, of Central New York, nearly equal to that of his distinguished father. His practice extended over a radius of a hundred miles and was only confined by his inability to attend to his calls from beyond these limits. He always had from six to ten medical students in his office; young men who had graduated from colleges or other institutions and came to him to take a post-graduate course. Practicing physicians from all parts of Central New York



came to watch him perform surgical operations. It was no uncommon sight to see him start out to perform an operation, at some distant point, accompanied by six or eight students and as many doctors—all on horseback. His office days were always known in the village by the concourse of people that gathered to consult him.

Dr. Wm. Campbell, LL. D., a very learned man in many branches of science and literature, although enjoying a very respectable practice, was more celebrated as a Civil Engineer and Surveyor than as a physician. He surveyed several of the State Roads, including the Second Great Western Turnpike, of which he was for many years one of the Directors. It was through his influence that this road came through Cherry Valley. He was Surveyor-General (now State Engineer and Surveyor) of the State; a member of the Board of Regents; a life Trustee of Union College, and held various minor offices.

Among the most prominent men, during this period and for many years after, was Jacob Livingston, a member of the distinguished family of that name, who had married the daughter of Dr. Joseph White and settled here about 1830, where he spent the remainder of his life; keeping up a very handsome establishment and living in a style previously unknown in the town. He was a man of ability and, though taking no active part, by reason of his position exerted a very considerable influence on the politics of this section. He was a National Elector



in 1840. The history of this branch of the White family is sufficiently remarkable to be worthy of mention, presenting as it does one of the very rare instances—in this country where one generation usually suffices to destroy the the reputation and wealth acquired by the preceeding generation—of the female line, by successive marriages, not only keeping intact the wealth, and preserving the prestige of a prominent family, but even greatly augmenting them. In 1793, Dr. Joseph White, already one of the wealthiest men and a prominent social leader in Central (then Western) New York, purchased the handsome property now owned by his grand-daughter. At his death it descended to his daughter, Mrs. Jacob Livingston, and then to the latter's daughter, Mrs. A. B. Cox; the family having, during the intervening hundred and five years, continued the social leaders of this section. It is now accounted one of the wealthy families of the state, and is connected by descent and marriage, with many of the oldest and most prominent families in America.

Abraham Roseboom, a member of a family prominent in mercantile circles in Fort Orange (later Albany) for 150 years previous, moved to Cherry Valley and settled, in 1806, on the farm now owned by A. H. Roseboom. He was a wealthy man and his property was largely increased by early investments in the Mohawk & Schenectady and the Utica & Schenectady railroads, and, after their consolidation, in the New York Central. He was an influential

man in the town. It is an interesting fact that the farm, now owned by his grand-son, was a part of the original Patent granted, in 1688, to Jacob Roseboom and others.

Joseph Clyde, son of Col. Samuel Clyde of Revolutionary fame, was prominent in political affairs and occupied an excellent social position. He was a Member of the Constitutional Convention of 1821, and a Member of Assembly in 1828.

The Rev. Eli F. Cooley, LL. D., during this time, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, was a man of distinguished ability and scholarship, and added, by his reputation for scholarly attainments, to the fame of the place. (1810-20.)

Rev. John Truir followed the Rev. Dr. Cooley as pastor of the Presbyterian Church. The History of the Presbyterian Church speaks of him as "an educated man, talented and full of vim; of excessive activity, of great and persuasive powers as a speaker, and so successful in bringing souls to Christ as to merit comparison with preachers of the type of Mr. Moody."

The Academy enjoyed great prosperity during the early half of the Century, and added greatly to the fame of Cherry Valley. Its Principals were, of necessity, men of classical education, and several of them were men of great learning. Of these the most noted was ——— Cogswell, a man of rare mental attainments, who was the Principal between 1825 and 1835.

Among the famous merchants of the very early part of the Century were Cullen & Livingston and the Kanes—well-known names in New York commercial circles. Gen. Watson Webb, who died recently at the advanced age of 90 years, was a clerk in the store of the former firm. The Kanes were West India merchants and their intention was to make Cherry Valley a distributing point for all the country west. The location of these famous firms in Cherry Valley was due to the attempt, very early in the Century, to make the city of Hudson the port of entry for foreign goods, instead of New York.—Among the locally noted merchants, who started in business here previous to 1818, were A. W. & H, Flint, Peter Magher, F. & P. May, and a little later Alfred Crafts and Robert Dunlap. The stores run by these men were to a great section of territory, especially to the west, what the huge Department Stores of New York are to the state to-day.

In the mechanical arts were several men whose exceptional skill gave them as great a reputation in this line as was enjoyed by any of the professional men. Notably among these was Edward Prescott, a famous clock-maker of his day, whose clocks, made entirely by hand and largely of wood, are still to be found in various parts of the country. They are much prized and when sold command high prices. Prescott mainly made clock “works”, which were sold to New York clock-makers and by them encased. Harry Smith was noted as a skilled Silversmith. He

was also a Truss Manufacturer on quite a large scale for those days. He bought the first Steam Engine ever seen in this town, for use in his Foundry, which stood back of the present Pearson Block. A silver truss made by Mr. Smith for the Marshs', of New York, for exhibition at the Crystal Palace Celebration, is said to have been the finest piece of workmanship shown at that exhibition. John K. Forester, came to this country originally to build the mantles, fire-places and other marble work in "Hyde Hall", in Springfield; at the time it was built the most splendid and costly mansion in the country, and on the interior of which only the most skilled workmen were employed. Forester settled in Cherry Valley and built up a very extensive marble business. The marble was dug out of the knoll back of the present John Skinnion house and when polished made a very handsome stone. It was known throughout the State as "Cherry Valley marble." He had a shed, for polishing the marble, near the present home of Mrs. Burns, and another shed on the Norman Waterhouse place in which he trimmed hearthstones, etc., which were quarried on the same place. He also had a mill in Livingston's Glen for sawing stone and marble. He employed quite a number of excellent workmen and himself had the reputation of being the finest workman in the country. Amasa Belknap was for many years a famous gunsmith. His rifles were much sought after in all parts of the country and especially on the western frontier. He filled an

order, from Texas, for 1,500 rifles—then considered a very large order—just previous to the Mexican war.

Among the other institutions, which early contributed to the prominence of Cherry Valley, were Holts' Tannery, (started prior to 1800) a very extensive concern for those days; North & Rudd's Brass Foundry and Judd's Iron Foundry. The latter was established by Oliver Judd, a very ingenious and inventive Yankee, who came here from Connecticut, in 1805, as a Blacksmith. He soon after started a Foundry in the village, which was later moved to Tekaharawa Falls, (now commonly called Judd's Falls), on account of the water power. It was still later removed again to the village and the Foundry now owned and operated by John Judd was built.—The Judds' were among the earliest manufacturers of cast-iron plows, in the state, and their implements gained a wide-spread reputation. Much of the virgin soil of Western New York and Ohio was overturned with them.

The North & Rudd Brass Foundry was located on the site now occupied by the Presbyterian Church and occupied half a dozen one story buildings. A large business was done in the manufacture of buckles, harness trimmings, saddle-irons, bells and various brass articles. A number of wagons were kept on the road, selling these goods, in this State and Canada.

In the house, which, up to about twenty-five years

ago, when it was torn down, stood east of the Bank, were born in the early Century, two men, James Lathrop and John May, who afterwards, by a singular coincidence, became famous circus Clowns.— Both traveled extensively abroad and gained a great reputation both in England and on the Continent.

## CHAPTER XVII.

1825 to 1835.

The decade beginning with 1826, presents little of interest, except as regards religious matters.

In 1828, the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized, by the Rev. Ephraim Hall, with 16 charter members. Services were held in the Lancaster school-house until 1835, when a Church building was erected. The Church, in its existence of seventy years, has had thirty-four ministers. Of these the most noted was John P. Newman, now a Methodist Bishop. Following is a list of the ministers who have been stationed here, since the organization of the Church: Ephraim Hall, James Kelsey, Isaac Grant, Calvin Hawley, Lyman Sperry, Joseph Baker, Leonard Bowdish, Lewis Anderson, Lyman A. Eddy, H. Ereanbach, Rosman Ingalls, C. Harvey, William Southworth, George Parsons, Barlow Gorham, John M. Searles, John P. Newman, Moses L. Kern, L. D. Pendell, H. S. Richardson, John T. Crippen, Joseph Shank, John W. Mitchell, R. W. Peebles, George W. Foster, J. B. Sherar, Gordon Moore, Wesley F. Tooke, M. G. Wadsworth, Lemuel B. Grey, Geo. H.



VanVliet, S. W. Brown, H. B. Fritts, A. G, Markham.

In 1827-8 the frame Presbyterian Church erected by the returning survivors of the Massacre was torn down and to quote Swinnerton's History of the Presbyterian church, "a new building reared its handsome steeple to a height of a hundred feet. It was in the classic style. In front was a portico with four elegant Tuscan Pillars, above which rose the steeple, story on story, to the summit, which was adorned with a tinned ball and vane, the latter being the same that surmounts the present spire."

From 1822 to 1829, services were held in Cherry Valley, at stated intervals, by the Rev. Frederick T. Tiffany, the Episcopal clergyman stationed at Cooperstown. Whether the Episcopalians had a regularly organized society here during this time is not known; though in view of the fact that several of the Vestry of the original church were still alive it would seem probable that such was the case; more especially as we find the Rev. Timothy Miner stationed here in 1838 as the Rector of Trinity church—the name of the original corporation. This matter is interesting to Episcopalians as deciding the question whether an Episcopalian organization has legally existed since 1803, or only since the formation of the present corporation in 1846.

The Protestant Methodists established a church here soon after 1830 and erected a church building in 1835. The church never had a large regular



membership, though it was a popular place of worship, with the younger classes, on Sunday evenings. The church had an existence of only a few years.—The minister was the Rev. John L. Ambler, a circuit rider of this denomination. The former church edifice was used as a barrack during the early part of the civil war and is now a Cooper Shop.

The only murders which have ever occurred in this town both took place in the year 1826. Neither was premeditated. The first murder was on the Western Turnpike about two miles from the village, on the present Blumenstock farm. Philo Thompson, a lad of about 16, in an altercation with his employer, Samuel Campbell, struck the latter with a hoe, killing him instantly. Thompson was sentenced to State Prison for seven years. A little later David Darby, employed in the blacksmith shop of Smith B. Reynold's, in the upper part of the village, also killed his employer in a quarrel. Darby was sentenced to be hung, but the sentence was commuted, and he was finally discharged, after a brief imprisonment. Both murders were looked upon as, in a measure, unintentional, and much sympathy was expressed for all the parties.

In 1827, the locally famous "Cherry Valley Volunteers" were organized, with Jonathan Hall as Captain. The early militia companies were often ununiformed, and little regard was paid to size and appearance. The "Volunteers," or Capt. Hall's Company, as it was called, were, however, very carefully

selected and dressed in grey coats, trimmed with buff, generously besprinkled with silver buttons, white pants and high black hats, trimmed with silver braid, with tall white plumes, having red tops, presented a very handsome appearance, and were the center of attraction at all military and Fourth of July celebrations in this section. The organization was kept up for many years. The original officers,—Jonathan Hall, captain; Edwin Judd, 1st lieutenant, and Charles McLean, 2nd lieutenant,—continued to hold their several positions until in the fifties, when Edwin Judd was advanced to the captaincy.

Sometime during the thirties the Cherry Valley Agricultural Society was organized and for a number of years Annual Fairs were held on the Academy lot on the corner of Church and Montgomery streets. The records have all been lost and we can learn nothing regarding the officers of the association except the bare fact that Levi Beardsley was president of it in 1838.

A very unique arrangement existed with reference to the postmastership during the thirties and forties. William Mc Lean was a pronounced Whig in politics, while his son, Charles, was an equally strong democrat. When the Whigs were in power the elder McLean was postmaster. When the democrats were victorious the office was turned over to the younger McLean. The public suffered little inconvenience from the change in the administration, since the post-office always remained in the same

place and the business of the office continued to be attended to by the two McLeans, jointly.

In 1835 a Charter was obtained "for the building of a railroad from a point on the Utica and Schenectady railroad, near Canajoharie, to Cherry Valley; thence along the Cherry Valley creek and the Susquehanna river to a junction with the Erie". The difficulties in the way of grade were so great that the project was abandoned.

This period was one of great financial prosperity for the village, which continued, up to the panic of '37, to be one of the wealthiest places in the State. In an earlier chapter it was stated that, although, in 1800, it was accounted the wealthiest place west of Albany, it was doubtful if it contained a person worth over ten thousand dollars. The great increase in wealth, in the intervening thirty years, is shown by the fact that, in 1830, there were a dozen men in Cherry Valley worth upwards of fifty thousand dollars,—a great fortune in those days. It is, of course, impossible to determine the exact size of the fortunes of the wealthiest men but the following will give some idea: Dr. White at his death, in 1832, left an estate valued at \$100,000; Abraham Roseboom, accounted the wealthiest man in the town, was worth somewhat in excess of that amount; Dr. David Little, (lived in Springfield), president of the Central Bank, and whose financial interests were in Cherry Valley, was worth over \$200,000; Levi Beardsley, in 1833, after he had lost a portion of his property,

valued his estate at \$60,000; Alvin Stewart, Isaac Seeley, Jabez Hammond, James O. Morse and Delos White were worth about the same as Beardsley, as was also Joseph Phelon, who came here in 1832; and Jacob Livingston was worth considerably more.—Howard Flint, Peter Magher, Robert Dunlap and Alfred Crafts were wealthy merchants, but their fortunes fell far short of \$50,000., with the possible exception of Flint's. The panic of 1837 played sad havoc with the wealth of nearly all of these men.—Beardsley, Morse and Stewart lost heavily in western lands, as in fact did nearly everyone, who had money to invest, to a greater or less degree. (People now speculate in Wall Street; then they speculated in "western lands"). The mercantile panic nearly ruined Magher, Dunlap and Crafts, and Flint went west and lost his fortune speculating in "pork."

At this time skilled mechanics were paid from seventy-five cents to a dollar a day and the wages of common laborers was fifty cents. There are yet living in the town several men who, as boys of from fourteen to eighteen, were accustomed to drive cattle to Albany and Catskill. They were paid twenty-five cents a day while going and paid their own way back—of course walking both ways. The cost of living in 1835—at least for the necessities of life—was fully as much as now. Loaf sugar cost 16c a pound and common sugar 11c; Hyson tea was 54c; ordinary tea 42c; raisins 12½c; currants 18c; molasses 50; rice 6c; starch 12c; lemons 3c; nails 9c; peas 75c

a bushel; oats 40c; eggs 10c; powder 30c a pound; shot 10c; thread was 9c a spool; calico 30c a yard; sheeting 19c; ordinary cambric 12c; muslin 66c; shirting 25c; blue jean 25c; gingham 30c; lamp oil, \$1.25; whisky was 40c a gallon; Malaga wine 75c; rum 50c; sweet wine 60c; gin \$1.00. Of course there were different qualities of many of these articles but these were the average prices.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

1835 to 1850.

The opening of the New York Central railroad, in 1836, may be said to have put an end to Cherry Valley's through trade and to have commercially isolated it. The great rivers of travel had changed their course, and Cherry Valley was left forsaken, on the banks of the now useless "Great Turnpikes," while the traffic, which once surged over them, now passed through the lowlands below, by way of the great canal or still greater railroad.

The great panic of 1837 was, too, a severe blow to the place. Immediately following the loss of trade, from the causes mentioned, its effect was doubly severe. It lasted, so far as this town was concerned, until 1844, and during that time every prominent merchant either failed or went out of business.

The history of Cherry Valley, during the decade beginning with 1838, is perhaps the most remarkable in its existence. Certainly no other village, of a thousand people, has ever played so important a part in the politics of a great State.

During this time Cherry Valley furnished to the State, two Members of the Board of Regents, (Dr. Wm. Campbell, LL. D., and Jabez D. Hammond, LL. D.); a President of the State Senate, (Levi Beardsley); a Surveyor-General, (Wm. Campbell); a Canal Commissioner, (Geo. W. Little); two Members of Congress, (Jeremiah E. Cary, and Wm. W. Campbell,); a State Senator, (David H. Little); a National Elector, (Jacob Livingston): a Justice of the Superior Court, (Wm. W. Campbell, LL. D.); and a member of the Court for the Correction of Errors, (Levi Beardsley). It also had two life Trustees of Union College,—then the most famous educational institution in the country, outside of New England,—and it was represented on the Boards of many large institutions and corporations.

Its influence in county politics was very great, as is indicated by the fact that at one time (1848) it furnished three of the seven county officers—Charles McLean, County Clerk; Dewitt C. Bates, District Attorney; Jonas Platner, Sheriff,—and a member of Assembly, (Benjamin Davis). The important part it took in county matters is further shown by the fact that, upon the reorganization of the County Agricultural Society, in 1841, the President, Secretary and Treasurer were all chosen from Cherry Valley.

Its activity in local matters was fully as great as in county and state affairs. There were here at this time three companies of infantry—commanded re-



spectively by Capt. Wm. C. Willson, Capt. Harmon Howland and Capt. Jonathan Hall—and three companies of artillery (strictly one company of 3 guns.) commanded by Capt. Sutphen. There were also two Fire Companies, a Brass Band and several other organizations.

During this time Cherry Valley acquired considerable literary importance by the publication of Hammond's "Political History," and "Times of Silas Wright"; Beardsley's "Reminiscences", and Campbell's "Annals of Tryon County" and "Life of Judith Grant,"—all of which attracted attention in the literary world,—as well as by the activity of several other of its residents in literary affairs.

The industries, giving employment to a number of men, included Watt's Tannery, which stood on the site of the stone building opposite the grounds of the Episcopal church; Judd's Iron Foundry; Luke Brewer's Furniture Factory—below the corner of Main and Genesee streets; Harry Smith's Truss works, and Benj. Davis' Hat-making establishment. Several wagon, tailor and shoe shops also gave employment to quite a number of men.

At this time the Academy, of which J. Washington Taylor was principal and Miss Caroline F. King preceptress, was enjoying a period of great prosperity. Connected with it was a Musical Department under the charge of Jonathan Fowler, a music teacher of reputation, which attracted hither many students of music. The large number of old and wealthy



families also gave the place great social prominence. Indeed the whole history of Cherry Valley during this period shows a prominence and activity that would be deemed incredible in a village of a thousand inhabitants, did not the official records testify to its truth.

In 1838 President Martin VanBuren visited Cherry Valley. He was entertained while here by Jacob Livingston, Esq., (a strong Whig and an elector on the Harrison ticket in 1840). A public reception was tendered him at Wilkin's (formerly Story's) tavern in the afternoon, and a private reception was given in his honor by Mrs. Levi Beardsley, in the evening.

The one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Cherry Valley was celebrated on the Fourth of July, 1840. The event called together an enormous crowd—estimated at 25,000—including many distinguished men. The speakers were the Rev. Dr. Eliphalet Nott, president of Union College, Wm. H. Seward, the Governor of the State, and the Hon. W. W. Campbell. The latter was one of the men who, both by their ability and prominence, added to the fame of Cherry Valley. He was at various times Circuit Judge, Judge of the Supreme Court and Member of Congress; a life Trustee of Union College, and author of "Annals of Tryon County", "Life of Judith Grant", and several other works, as well as many magazine articles and pamphlets. He had also a very considerable reputation as a speaker.

The greatest political celebration ever held in this or adjoining counties, was in the famous "Log Cabin and Hard Cider Campaign" when Harrison and Tyler were the Whig candidates. Several days before the celebration a log cabin was erected on the site of the present Francis house, next to C. B. Platner's. The cabin was built in a single day, all the Whigs in the town who could find room to drive a nail aiding in its erection. The day after it was completed several of the leading Whigs decided that they would whitewash the interior. Accordingly armed with whitewash pails and brushes they took possession of the cabin. Fortunately, or unfortunately,—for this is one of the cases in which opinions might honestly differ,—a cider barrel or two was considered a necessary part of the furnishings of a log cabin, and the builders of this particular cabin had finished their labors by "rolling in" several barrels of cider. The result may be easily imagined. After a day spent in the cabin the company towards evening appeared, themselves decorated from head to feet with whitewash, and with unsteady steps, but with happiness depicted on their faces as the result of a good deed well done, sought their several homes.—It is illustrative of the times that this proceeding, which would now be considered "disgraceful," attracted no special attention and was not looked upon as anything especially out of the way. Among the party were Judge Hammond, Judge Brackett, Counselor H. J. Campbell and several other of the first

men in the village. The only special comment on the subject was that of a radical democrat who expressed the opinion that "it almost made him wish he was a Whig." Which doubtless expressed the opinion of a good many other prominent democrats.

The celebration itself was held in Ripley's Grove, (now the Bates' farm). Connected with it was the inevitable "Ox Roast." The sticks sustaining the Ox had burned off during the roasting process the preceding night, allowing the animal to drop into the huge dripping pan and thence into the fire, so that portions of the outer part were more thoroughly cocked than absolutely necessary, but with the assistance of the hard cider, which stood in barrels all over the lot—free to all—this was easily overlooked. A novel sight was a large number of small log cabins, some used for refreshment booths and others merely for show; the latter gaily decorated and having, as their occupants, girls, women and men, in various costumes, representing early settlers, indians, etc. Some of the smaller of these were built by farmers on wagons, or ox carts, and drawn to the grounds. Seth Pope, who lived on the hill back of the Roseboom place, narrowly escaped a fatal accident by the tipping over of a log cabin he was bringing down the hill on his ox cart. Fortunately the bevy of girls; dressed in white, who were to occupy it, were walking and escaped injury, as did also, by singular good fortune, the driver.

In 1844 another very large political celebration

was held in Campbell's grove, at which the "Speech" was delivered by Horace Greeley. In connection with this was also an "Ox roast"—apparently a necessary concomitant of all the early celebrations.

Cherry Valley was itself too full of life to pay much attention to the Mexican war and there were few volunteers from here. Several reached the recruiting station at New York but the only ones who took an active part in the war were Lieut. Edward Gilbert, who was later the first Representative in Congress, from the new State of California, and Capt. John Brackett, who served for many years in the regular army.

The present Episcopal Society was incorporated on April 13, 1846, under the name of Grace Church.—The first rector was the Rev. Joseph Ransom.—The vestry was composed of the following: James W. Brackett and Henry Roseboom, Wardens;—Benjamin Davis, George W. White, Charles McLean, B. B. Provost, David L. White, Joseph Calder, Amos L. Swan and Wm. Owen, Vestrymen. Of the charter members of the society Mrs. Henry Roseboom, Mrs. A. B. Cox and Mrs. Brayton A. Campbell alone survive. Of the vestry not one is now living. The following is a list of the Episcopalian ministers and rectors who have held services here:———Russell, 1787 to 1793; David Nash, 1798 to 1806; Timothy Miner, 1838 to 1841; Joseph Ransom, 1845 to 1850; J. Leander Townsend, 1850 to

1852; John Dowdney, 1852 to 1853; George H. Nichols, 1854 to 1865; Flavel S. Mines, 1865 to 1867; David L. Schwartz, 1867 to 1872; Henry H. Oberly, 1873 to 1874, J. H. De Mille, 1874 to 1876; Reeve Hobbie, 1876 to 1884; J. E. Hall, 1885 to the present time.

About the year 1847, John W. Fowler established a Law School here, which was very successful, for some years, and attracted hither a number of young men of ability who, later in life, attained prominence. Fowler gave his chief attention to oratory and many of the public speakers and campaign orators who became noted in the west—for that section attracted most of the youth of that time—received their training at the “Cherry Valley Law School.”

About 1849 Amos L. Swan began the manufacture of Melodeons, and, two years later, O. H. Eldredge engaged in the manufacture of Cabinet Organs, on quite an extensive scale. The former's business was broken up by the civil war. The Eldredge Factory was run until 1874—during the later years by Alex. Fea & Sons,—when it was also abandoned.

## CHAPTER XIX.

1850 to 1870.

The history of Cherry Valley, so far as its general influence and prominence is concerned, may be said to have ended with the close of the first half of the Century. Perhaps the most remarkable thing in its whole history is the suddenness with which it dropped from a place of leading importance into a commonplace country village. The town, which had, between 1838 and 1848, been the home of State officers, members of the Board of Regents, Senators, Judges and Congressmen has, during the fifty years since then, with the exception of one Congressman, (Oliver A. Morse 35th Congress), never had an official of any importance. Its decline in wealth and social importance was more gradual, and it continued, for thirty years after the date mentioned, to hold an enviable position in the social world, by reason of the wealth and standing of many of its families.

In 1854 Cherry Valley was further reduced, both in size and population, by the formation from it of the town of Roseboom. So named in honor of

Abraham Roseboom, one of its oldest and most prominent, as well as its wealthiest citizen. At this time Cherry Valley was the first town in the county in point of population. The village itself was, however the second in the county, Cooperstown being first.—The village of Cherry Valley attained its greatest numerical size during the later fifties. It at one time contained over eleven hundred inhabitants. It was a far less prepossessing looking village than it now is, and contained many old rookeries and unpainted houses. But what is somewhat remarkable, it did not possess nearly as many buildings as to-day. Genesee street had only four or five houses; there were only a few houses on upper Main street; Upper Montgomery street and its lanes had not half the present number of houses, and Maple Avenue was unopened. It was however not unusual to find several families in a house and a dozen people in a family.

In 1854 Lodge Rooms were built for the I. O. O. F. Society; which had been established here in 1847, by the addition of a third story to the building known as the "Bates Block." The Odd Fellows continued to occupy these rooms until the building was destroyed by fire in 1894. In the same year (1854) an Encampment was organized in connection with the Lodge. No member of the original Lodge is now living and of the charter members of the Encampment, we believe only two—James Young, Esq., and Robert Wales. Both organizations are now in a



flourishing condition.

The following account of the part taken by Cherry Valley, in the late civil war, written by Rev. H. U. Swinnerton, Ph. D., in 1876, is so concise and complete that no later account can improve it.

"A company was raised in April, 1861, immediately after Sumter, its quarters being in the school house near the cemetery, on the site of the old revolutionary fort. It was offered at Albany, under the first call for 75,000 men, but the call having been filled it was not received. Its captain was Geo. S. Tuckerman, and its lieutenants, Egbert Olcott and Cleveland J. Campbell. All or nearly all its members enlisted in other organizations. Some of them, with others from the village, making ten in all, enlisted as privates at Albany in the 44th ("Ellsworth Avengers,") which went out in the Fall. Among these Campbell rose from one grade to another in line and staff and in different corps, becoming a colonel, and brig. gen. by brevet. He died before the close of the war. Olcott passed to the 121st of which he long held command, after the promotion of Gen. Upton, and becoming a colonel; and William Crafts received a captain's commission on the day he died.

For years preceding there had been a fine military company of which Amos L. Swan was captain, and in which the people of the village took great interest. It was attached to the old 39th militia, of which Cherry Valley was the head-quarters. In September 1861, on the call for three year's men, Gen.



Danforth, of the local militia brigade, was present at a parade of this company. On his asking how many from it would go, the order was given, for such as were willing, to advance from the ranks when nearly the whole company stepped forward. There was then no bounty, and the men did not even know the pay. The general at once decided that the enlistment of the 39th should be proceeded with at Cherry Valley. Bates' hop-house was used for barracks, and the old M. P. Church as mess room.—Over six hundred men were recruited by the 1st of January 1862, when they were suddenly ordered to Albany, and there summarily consolidated with the 76th N. Y. S. V. Two of the companies, however were put in the artillery under Col. Laidley.

The 39th thus lost its identity, and the interest of the people here, followed the 76th through its long career down to Appomattox; what was left of it taking part there in the closing strokes of the war.—For it the flag was made. The officers from Cherry Valley were as follows: Capt. A. L. Swan, who was brevetted lieut. col., Lieut. Robert Story, (a most gallant soldier,) who became Capt., and was killed at Gettysburg, Capt. John W. Young became a major. James D. Clyde subsequently entered as Lieut. and became a captain. Of those who entered as privates in it, Edwin J. Swan became a captain, and Barnard Phenix, a Lieut., (killed at Weldon, R. R.) Samuel Ludlam and James George became serjeants, and Albert Gross several times declined the office,

as did Solomon Howe, though called by Col. Swan the "banner soldier" of the regiment. John Stevens was made color serg't at Gettysburg, and Irving Baker at South Mountain for bravery.

In the Fall of 1861, after the defeat at Bull Run, a troop of cavalry was formed under Lieut. Philip R. Wales (who became a Capt.) and received at N. Y., into the Ira Harris Cavalry, (afterwards 6th N. Y.)—John Ramsay became a first lieutenant in it, and James J. Fonda an ordnance serjeant. Morgan Lewis went out as a private and became a captain.—Also, that Fall, a squad of near a score for Berdan's Sharpshooters, raised by Geo. S. Tuckerman as Capt. and Lieut. Charles McLean, who was killed. Wm. McLean, his brother was a serjeant, and was also killed. In this corps John E. Hetherington afterwards became a captain, and Oliver J. Hetherington was a serjeant, William Story several times persistently refused a commission on account of a romantic friendship, for the sake of which he preferred the ranks. He and James Kraig, his alter ego were first in, and last out, of everything that was lively.—James Hetherington, the third brother of the two above, went in the volunteer navy, as did also William V. S. Bastian, John Nelson, and Thomas Brien.—Charles Nichols (son of the rector of Grace Church,) George Engle and William Nelson lost their lives in the navy. The residence of Lieut. Com. George Ransom U. S. N. was here though now changed to Richfield. He commanded the cruiser, Grand Gulf,

was Post Capt. at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, and now ranks as Commander in one of the finest vessels of the Navy. In August 1862, upon the second call for three year's men, two companies were raised for the 121st, whose head quarters were at Herkimer. Egbert Olcott, as stated above, long held command. He received some remarkable commendations for the efficiency of his regiment, and his own merit as an officer. It was attached to the 6th Corps. and was engaged in all the battles of the army of the Potomac up to Winchester. Thence under Sheridan in his campaign to Richmond. It got the honorable nickname of "Upton's regulars." Other officers from here were captains Edwin Clark and Douglas Campbell, the latter brevetted major, Lieut. and Adj't. Francis W. Morse who became captain on the staff, and major by brevet, and Lieuts. James D. Clyde and Wm. Tucker; Edward Wales and John Daniels both brave fellows, became serjeants and were killed. The three Wallaces, Spencer, Benjamin, and John, sons of a clergyman, (the last of whom was killed,) were among the many privates, whose services were as valuable as those of many an officer. And John Skinnon, an old veteran of the British Army, was another of the same kind. When examined for enlistment the doctor pointed to a bullet scar in his chest, remarking "If that had gone an inch this way it would have killed you."

"Begorra," said John, "and if it had gone the wan inch the other way, it wouldn't have hit me at all!"

Besides these bodies of men, there went from the place numerous individuals in other organizations; including the following:

David Little, M. D. went out as Assist. Surgeon of the 14th, New York, and became a Surgeon, with the rank of major. Egbert Olcott (a cousin of the before mentioned of the same name,) became a lieut. in the Regular Army. Delos Olcott, his brother, became a Capt. in the volunteers. George Little became a Capt. in the 127th, Louis Campbell became a lieutenant in the 152d, Charles Fry was an Assist. Surgeon in the 26th.

Col. Olcott, Capt. Delos Olcott, Major Young, Capt. Ed. Swan, Capt. Clyde, and Lieuts. Casler of Springfield and L. Campbell were all prisoners and were among the officers placed under fire at Charleston during the bombardment. Some were exchanged, but others endured unspeakable horrors in the prisons at Savannah, Macon and Columbia, gaining their liberty, with constitutions in some cases totally impaired, only at the end of the war.

I feel that this list is very imperfectly made up, as almost every day adds a name or an item which ought to go in. My only fear, however, is that the reader a hundred years from now will not believe that out of the two or three thousand people in this town so many could have been sent; that the officers alone so far as named should number so many as thirty-seven;—embracing eleven of the rank of captain, ten of higher grade seven lieutenants, and at

least nine subalterns; and that the dead whose fate was ascertained should count up to forty-two."

The taking away, by the war, of so many of the young men of the village, not only reduced its population, but also injuriously effected its business interests. It was the main cause leading to the closing of the Academy and it caused the permanent abandonment of one, and the temporary stoppage of the other, of the melodeon factories. In the midst of the depression, brought about by the war, came the opening of the Albany & Susquehanna railroad, which diverted from Cherry Valley the trade of the lower part of Otsego and adjoining counties. The greater portion of which had, up to this time, passed through it, on the way to Albany or the New York Central railroad.

In the early part of June, 1866, the Tryon House, a locally noted hotel, was destroyed by fire, and a month later, (July 6), a still more disastrous fire swept away all the remaining business portion of Main street, on the north side, with the exception of of the Central Hotel and the building east of it.

In 1867, the last "General Training" was held in Cherry Valley. Immediately afterwards the old 39th Regiment, which had long had its head-quarters here, was disbanded. The Militia equipments were removed and the old Arsenal abandoned to the village youth and to the elements. The combined efforts, of these two destructive agents, soon made a wreck of the building, and a number of years ago it

was torn down and burned.

In 1868 a company was organized for the development of the "White Sulphur Spring," two miles north of the village. The existence of the spring had been known since the settlement of the place, and is said to have been much visited by the indians for many years previous. A commodious bath-house was erected and a very considerable amount of money was expended in laying out roads and developing the property, but the enterprise, owing doubtless to its distance from any hotel, was never a success. A fact much to be regretted, for there is no question of the medicinal value of the water. A little later a phosphate spring, known to the indians, was re-discovered. The water was thoroughly analyzed and found to be heavily impregnated with phosphates but, in developing, it became mixed with other water, and it was also finally abandoned.

The building of the New York Central and the Albany & Susquehanna railroads had so completely isolated Cherry Valley from the rest of the world, that it was deemed almost essential for the existence of the place that it should have railroad communication with the outside world, and, a charter having been acquired, the building of a road from Cherry Valley to a junction with the Albany & Susquehanna at Cobleskill was begun on Dec. 1, 1868, and on June 15, 1870, the first train ran over the newly completed Cherry Valley, Sharon & Albany railroad. The following day trains began running regularly. The



officers of the road from this town were: Wm. W. Campbell president; H. J. Olcott, treasurer; A. B. Cox, Dewitt C. Bates and James Young, directors. Mr. Bates was also the superintendent of the road. The road was never a paying affair and after a few years it was sold to the Delaware & Hudson Canal Co., the present owners. The town was bonded for \$150,000. to build the road, the bonds drawing seven per cent interest. The payment of which has been a heavy burden on the town for many years, but is now rapidly becoming less burdensome both by the reduction in the rate of interest and the payment of the greater part of the principal.

In the year 1869, James S. Campbell, the last survivor of the Massacre, passed away, at the advanced age of 97 years. He was a child of six years, when the tories and indians descended upon the ill-fated settlement, and was, with the rest of the family, taken captive. He was carried to Canada and adopted into an indian family. More remarkable even than his great age or his connection with the revolutionary period, is the fact that he was a son of Col. Samuel Campbell, one of the original settlers of Cherry Valley. Probably no two generations in the same family ever covered a longer period in the history of an American village. Certainly none ever witnessed greater changes nor passed through a more exciting epoch.

## CHAPTER XX.

1870 to 1898.

The history of Cherry Valley, since 1870, has been but a constant record of disasters and deaths; of devastating fires, of loss of population by removals, and of business through these and other causes. But of far more serious moment has been the loss, by death, of the men who, by their intellect, position, or wealth, gave the town a character and standing unequalled among the smaller villages of the state. Among the men having an extended reputation for literary and scholarly attainments, living here in 1870, and who have since died, were Judge Wm. W. Campbell, Hon. Oliver A. Morse and Prof. John L. Sawyer. The men of wealth and high social standing included A. B. Cox, Henry Roseboom, Joseph Phelon, Horatio J. Olcott, G. W. B. Dakin, Horace Ripley and Samuel Campbell. Of these the first three were members of old and wealthy families previously mentioned; types of the older generation of country gentlemen, now so nearly extinct. Mr. Olcott, a member of the family, of that name, long prominent in banking circles, was for over fifty years



connected with the Central Bank; a portion of that time as President. Mr. Dakin, a very gentlemanly man, of scholarly tastes, succeeded Mr. Olcott as president of the Bank. (His name was inadvertently omitted from the list of the presidents in a previous chapter). Mr. Ripley, a member of an old Cherry Valley family, was a retired city merchant. Samuel Campbell, Esq., for many years a prominent New York lawyer, having amassed a large fortune, had returned to his native village to spend the rest of his days. Of the lawyers Judge George C. Clyde, Dewitt C. Bates, Davis Bates and Wm. Burch, enjoyed more than a local reputation. The superior abilities of the latter were not fully appreciated by later generations. They did justice to his ability as a lawyer, but his broader scholarship and knowledge—so rare among country lawyers of the present generation—were not appreciated at their full value.—Among the medical fraternity Joseph White and George Merritt held an excellent position; the latter especially in surgery. In local and county affairs Charles McLean long occupied a leading place.—There were also a number of others, whose respectable talents and standing entitled them to consideration.

That these men did not do more to extend the reputation and improve the material prospects of the place, was due to the fact that many of them came here after the prime of life—having acquired prominence and wealth in other fields—and preferred a

life of retirement. They sought rather to keep it, as it then was, a quiet, cultivated, country village, than to make it an active, stirring, bustling town; as with the wealth and influence at their command they might easily have done.

On June 21, 1871, fire again visited the place and destroyed the old two and a half story building standing on the corner opposite the Tryon House lot.—Like most of the fires that have taken place in the village, this proved but a temporary disaster as a more modern three story block was soon erected on this site.

In June 1872 the old Presbyterian church erected in 1827–8, was torn down, and on October 1st, 1873, the handsome stone edifice which now adds so much to the beauty of the village, and attracts the attention of all visitors, was dedicated. The church was erected by the munificence of Miss Catharine Roseboom and is a memorial both of her generosity and her interest in the cause of christianity. The only outward show of an extended liberality and deep interest in religious matters, which she has evinced privately in many instances.

The Historical Account of the Presbyterian church of Cherry Valley says: "It can probably be said of few churches in this country, that there have been erected for their use, so many as five successive houses of worship. The edifice we now occupy is the fifth building that has been raised and dedicated to the use of this congregation in the

worship of God." Following is a list of the Pastors who have been stationed here since the organization of the Presbyterian Society: Samuel Dunlop, 1741-78; Eliphalet Nott, 1796-98; Thos. K. Kirkham, 1803-04; Geo. Hall, 1806-07; Jesse Townsand, 1810; Eli F. Cooley, 1810-20; John Truair, 1820-22; Charles Jas. Cook, 1822; Charles Fitch, 1822-24; Evans Beardsley, 1825; Jas. B. Ambler, 1825-27; C. W. D. Tappan, 1828-29; Alex. M. Cowan, 1830-33; Wm. Lochead, 1834-38; Albert V. H. Powell, 1838-39; William Lusk, 1841-46; Geo. S. Boardman, 1847-49; John G. Hall, 1850-57; Jas. H. Dwight, 1857-58; Alex. S. Twombly, 1858-62; Edward P. Gardner, 1862-67; Henry U. Swinnerton, 1868 to the present time.

The remarkable decline in the importance of Cherry Valley, is made most strikingly evident by the statement that there were seventeen lawyers in active practice in 1843, but by 1873 the number had declined to four.

In 1876, Miss Catharine Roseboom purchased the lot at the corner of Montgomery and Church streets and erected thereon a building for Academic purposes. A Conservatory of Music was started, in 1878, with a competent corps of instructors, but it proved a failure and was soon abandoned. In accordance with the original intention, an Academy was established, in 1881, and was run until 1895, when, through lack of support, both moral and material, it too was given up. Educationally the

Academy was always a success but it was financially a failure, and was only kept up by the liberality of Miss Roseboom.

The Centennial of the Massacre of Cherry Valley and the unveiling of the Monument which, to quote the late Roscoe Conkling, "testifies of the sorrow of one generation and the appreciation of another," was held on the 15th of August, 1878. The names of the honorary officers, on that occasion, will be of sad interest to those whose memory carries them back to that date, not only as showing the class of men who then formed a part of the village, but also as showing the sad ravages of death in the comparatively short time that has since elapsed; for of these men, most of whom were little past the prime of life, but two are left—John Judd and Wm. H. Waldron. The list is as follows: President:—Chas. McLean. Vice Presidents:—W. W. Campbell, H. J. Olcott, Samuel C. Willson, Henry Roseboom, J. N. Clyde, Jacob Sharp, John Judd, William W. Holt, Joseph Phelon, George Merritt, J. L. Sawyer, James O. Morse, Thos. S. Wells, John C. Campbell, Horace Ripley, William H. Waldron, Amos L. Swan, John C. Winne, James Horton, Sen., DeWitt C. Clyde, William Burch, Samuel B. Campbell, Hiram Flint.

The following account is taken from the "Proceedings of the Centennial of the Cherry Valley Massacre" by John L. Sawyer: "The 15th of August was a marked day in the calender of Cherry Valley;

—not from the number of those present, though it was great; nor from the character of the guests, though many of them were distinguished; but from the fact that it was the day set apart for the final act of a duty that three generations of men had neglected to perform. The procession was formed promptly at one o'clock P. M., under the direction of the Marshal, Capt. J. E. Hetherington, and proceeded to the cemetery where the following program was carried out: 1. Dirge by the Band, 2. Prayer by Dr. Eliphalet Nott Potter, President of Union College, 3. Singing of Ode, written for the occasion by John L. Sawyer. 4. Remarks by the President of the day, 5. Address of Hon. Horatio Seymour. 6. Unveiling of the Monument by Hon. Thos. L. Wells, of N. J., Hon. W. W. Campbell of Cherry Valley, N. Y., DeWitt C. Clyde, Esq. of Middlefield, N. Y., Hon. S. C. Willson of Indiana and J. B. Thompson, M. D., of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., descendants of those whose names are inscribed thereon. 7. An Idyl of Cherry Valley, Poem and Chorus written for the occasion, by S. E. Johnson of Boston, 8. Address by Douglas Campbell, Esq., of New York, 9. Singing by the Choir, 10. Address by Hon. S. C. Willson of Indiana, 11. Address by Col. Snow of Oneonta, 12. Address by Dr. Potter, 13. Benediction by Rev. H. U. Swinnerton.

On March 29th, 1891, that part of the business portion of the village known as 'Harmony Row' was destroyed by fire, as was also the house and store

occupied by Alexander Oliver.

In 1893, Messrs. Rudd and Harris, of Brooklyn,—the former a native of Cherry Valley—purchased the Grand Hotel property, (formerly the old Academy) and spent much money in beautifying and improving it. The lithia water (from the lithia spring) was also brought to the village, and a handsome fountain erected on the hotel grounds. It was hoped that through the efforts of these men Cherry Valley would develop into a summer resort, rivalling its neighbors,—Sharon and Richfield,—but on July 6th, 1894 a fire, the most disastrous in its result, that has ever visited the place, destroyed the hotel. A most serious loss both to the beauty of the village and its material prospects. Five days previous fire had also destroyed the Central Hotel, for many years the most popular hotel in the town. The latter has however been replaced by a larger and much more modern building.

Since this time nothing of moment has taken place in this town, excepting the building of the water works system in 1896-7, and the death of several prominent men.

The only man, properly belonging to the present generation, who has contributed to the fame of Cherry Valley was the late Douglas Campbell, whose great work "The Puritan in England, Holland and America" was written in Cherry Valley, in the years immediately preceding his death. A work that will stand as a lasting monument to the talents of

the author, not less than to his indomitable will, which alone sustained him, wasting with disease and suffering from physical pain, to complete a work which required the keenest perceptions and the deepest thought. As a literary feat it is unsurpassed in the annals of literature.

Of the historic buildings of the village the residence of Mrs. Sarah Morse O'Connor, has been alone preserved in its original form. A house of much local interest from the great number of distinguished guests who have been entertained there both by Mrs. O'Connor's father, Hon. Oliver A. Morse, and by her talented grand-father, Judge James O. Morse; of great interest, to many Collegians, as the house wherein was founded the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity; and of world-wide interest as the roof under which Prof. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph worked out many of his theories of the system that bears his name. Here too, as a young artist, the guest of his cousin, James O. Morse, he painted several of his pictures, which have since become famous. It has an added interest as being for many years the home of Mrs. Oliver A. Morse, at the time of her death, at the beginning of the present year, one of the few real surviving daughters of the revolution. A woman of rare loveliness of character, of superior culture and of unusual refinement.

The Cherry Valley of to-day differs in little from other small villages. A few of the older families, growing yearly less, still linger, and give to the vil-



lage a certain social prestige and an unconscious air of refinement, unknown to more modern country places. Its clergymen hold a somewhat higher social position and are possessed of greater learning, if not eloquence, than the average country minister. Its lawyers and doctors rank fairly well in their professions, and its merchants are fully the average in enterprise, honesty and respectability. Its moral tone is unusually good and its churches are supported as well proportionately as elsewhere in the country. It has the usual secret organizations, fire companies, Union School, water works and other concomitants of villages of its size and class.

Whether it will ever again become an active factor in the doings of the world, or whether it has accomplished its part, the future only will determine.—The present of the American village is epemeral, the future uncertain, but the glory of such a past as Cherry Valley's will last as long as this country endures. While the younger generations, in whom the fire of ambition burns, will lament that the advance of civilization and the growth of the cities, those great vampires which suck the life blood of the smaller villages, have destroyed the prosperity of this once famous village, there are many who will rejoice that the same causes have preserved to the place its natural beauty; that the hills still wear their wooded crests; that the landscape is unmarred by unsightly buildings, and the pure mountain streams unpolluted by the refuse of factories and mills.



# Reminiscences.

## Recollections of Cherry Valley.

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By L. W. C.

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“I’ll nought extenuate nor set down in malice.”

My earliest recollections of the place began when I was about four years old, when I came to live with my grandfather, Dr. or he was usually called, Judge White. What a lovely village it was then, and how many people of position and cultivation were in it! As the late Douglas Campbell said, “all the good people are dead.” My grandfather and his two sons, Menzo and Delos, stood at the head of the medical profession as physicians and surgeons. James O. Morse, Levi Beardsley, Isaac Seeley, Alvin Stewart, Jabez D. Hammond and James Brackett, were well-known lawyers all over the state. So many men possessed of so much talent and culture could be found in no other place of equal or superior size. A flourishing Academy kept up the teaching of the young for their future destiny, or work, I should say. Among the mechanics was Amasa Belknap, whose rifle shooting, and rifle making was well known; also Harry Smith, a scientific jeweler, and Prescott whose clocks and scissors are still prized by the descendents of

the old inhabitants. Besides these villagers the surrounding inhabitants were people who were deserving of being remembered. Down about four miles below the village lived the Rosebooms, and a mile or two nearer, the Dixons, a little farther on Jesse Johnson, and a little farther away still, lived his son Erastus; under the hill lived the widow Henn and her four children, and on the hill above some of her family, the descendents of her father, Judge Hudson, I think Mrs. Davis and her two daughters lived there. The old Presbyterian church stood in the grave yard, and it was the only church here; there were a few Episcopalians, who had organized a church in 1803, but it had frittered out, and only now and then had visits from father Nash or Mr. Tiffany. There were no Methodists here then.

In my mentioning the mechanics, I omitted the Judd family, who were very prominent here and most excellent citizens.

In those times people had to be very economical, for there was very little money in circulation. Every one had the comforts of life, but there was not the ambition for elegancies in furniture and dress that there is now. Consequently people had more time and leisure for the cultivation of their minds. Bric-a-brac was an unknown word. In those times people were not conventional, but gave utterance to their thoughts in an honest and original way. In reading the sayings and doings of some of the old English worthies I think they are no more worthy

of being recorded than some of the witticisms of "Our Village." At the head of the list stood Alvin Stewart, a Green Mountaineer. He was a tall, large boned man, of sallow complexion, and showed the white of the eye a great deal. Like Artemus Ward he could convulse people with his sayings and doings, without changing his countenance. I was too young to understand and remember all I have heard about him. He went to Europe, about sixty years ago, in the time of sailing vessels, when the voyage was long enough for the passengers to become acquainted with each other, and the Captain said, he would willingly take him for nothing for the amusement he afforded. He was a teacher at first, in the Academy, and always kept his eyes open when he made the prayer, at the opening of the school. One scholar, bolder than the others, said: "Mr. Stewart, why do you always keep your eyes open when you pray?" He said, "we are commanded to watch as well as pray." But he was much liked by his pupils. I wish I could remember all the funny things I've heard of him. An old lady told me that once a boy did something against the rule, and he told him to go and get some withes. When the boy came back he told him he thought he should have to kill him; and, as he threatened, he kept poking the withes in the ashes, to season them. When school was dismissed he took up the bundle of sticks and told the boy to run; and he whipt all the benches and chairs, and the boy escaped un-

scathed. He was addicted to taking too much sometimes, but he afterwards reformed and became a great temperance man. He was also a great abolitionist and became very prominent as one. He married a Miss Holt. They had three beautiful little daughters, two of whom fell victims to the scarlet fever; the surviving one was Mrs. Marsh, who is immortalized as "Jennie Marsh of Cherry Valley," by the poet Morris. I have forgotten to mention that there was another daughter, who married Judge Dean, of Poughkeepsie, and I believe is still living. He had a son Alvin, who died young.

They told a story about Mr. Stewart and a young lawyer, who was opposed to him in an important case. The young man fully aware of the strength of his opponent, made great efforts to prepare himself for the battle. He wrote a fine speech but he had the misfortune to have a very weak voice. After he had finished, Mr. Stewart arose, in a very deliberate manner, with a handkerchief wrapped around his head, and, rising still higher on his tip-toes, said, "wee! wee! wee!" Which brought down the house, and totally defeated the young man in his first attempt at eloquence. His quotations, or mis-quotations, of Shakespeare, and other classical writers were too funny for anything. In speaking of some woman in court, he said, she "stood like patience at a wash-tub."

Another pair of funny lawyers were Mr. Levi Beardsley and James Brackett. They were mighty

hunters and in those days there were no foxes in the country to rob the farmers of their geese and turkeys, and we could hear the hounds baying about the hills very often. They used to take a bottle to refresh the inner man, and one day after tasting it they found it was Adam's Ale, whereupon Mr. Beardsley said: "It was some of Elizabeth's work." It is said, altho' I do not vouch for the truth of it, that Elizabeth once decapitated one of her husband's hounds.

Judge Morse was a very talented lawyer and one of the most amiable of men. His wife was also a very gifted woman. She was a great lover of flowers and her garden was one of the show places of the town.

Judge Hammond was another distinguished lawyer. He wrote the "Political History of New York." Personally he was one of the ugliest men I ever saw. He was a widower, with one son, when I first recall him. He married soon after a lady who was recommended to him; one of the loveliest characters I ever met with. She was dreadfully scarred with the small-pox, but was so agreeable that one forgot she was not beautiful. She devoted her life to him, and said it was worth something to have such an agreeable companion. She read all the proof sheets for his history, read to him, conversed with him, and did everything to make him happy.— Altho' of a strong vigorous constitution, he had to be indulged in all his whims; she had to make his brown bread, cook his rice, and when he was judge she had

to accompany him to court and carry his bread. He must have a fresh egg for his breakfast, and one lady said: "If there was but one hen in the world, and that hen laid but one egg, Judge Hammond must have it." Perhaps the Judge had some appreciation of her, for after her death he wrote on her bed Adam's description of Eve:

"Grace was in all her steps, Heaven in her eye;  
In every gesture dignity and love."

Another lawyer who was quite prominent was Mr. Seeley. He had two daughters who were agreeable, accomplished ladies, Mrs. Wm. Oliver of Penn Yan and Mrs. David H. Little. Their house was the resort of all the pleasant people of the village and county.

In my time the principal of the Academy was Mr. Cogswell, an excellent teacher and a man very much respected. He died in the western part of the State not many years ago. His successors were nearly all fine scholarly men and it is a great pity such an institution which prepared so many young men for doing good work in the world should have been closed. It was endowed by a Mr. Dwight Ripley, but by what means the property was ever diverted from its rightful use I never could find out. There were several other families that ought to be remembered. Among these were the Clydes, who lived above the village, and whose ancestor in the revolution was one of the principal men here.

Judge Hudson, who owned the place now occupied by Edward Phelon, was an Englishman. He was

a very fat man and a good farmer. I've heard my father say the Hudson and Tunnicliffe cheese used to sell for fifty cents a pound on the North River. He used to import his cattle from England and lived in the style of an English grazier. He was so fat he could not walk and used to be driven about in his ox-cart. He was very fond of good eating and partook too freely of his home brewed. He would get very ill and send for my grand-father and say to him: "Dr. White, if you will only cure me this time I will neither eat nor drink any more."— But he broke his word and the last time my grand-father said: "Judge, I can do nothing for you." A short time since a person told me that her uncle had a large chair, almost big enough for two persons to sit in, and it was called "the Hudson Chair." I asked her if she had never heard of the "Hudsons."— She said. "No." "So soon do we pass away and are forgotten." Some idea may be had of the size of Judge Hudson: when his coffin was carried out of the house, the sides of the door had to be taken off.

There was a family of Tuckers on the East Hill. One of them, Josh, was considered a great wit.— His son also named Josh was down in the village, and he made the acquaintance of a young woman sitting in a wagon under a shed. She was journeying with her family in a big covered wagon out west to "the Ohio" as it was then called. Josh and she were mutually pleased with each other, and so they were married.. My grand-father said to the old



man: "Mr. Tucker, what kind of a wife did Josh get?" "I will tell you Doctor.

The Israelites they wanted bread,  
The Lord did send them manna;  
Our Josh wanted a wife,  
And the devil sent him Hannah."

There was another 'Tucker, in my time, named Joe; whether he was a descendent of Josh and Hannah I cannot say. He one day gave Mrs. Joe a whipping. and the reason he gave was this. He told his wife there were two things she should not lend, one was the fine comb, the other was the darning needle, but she had the temerity to lend the darning needle, and a little girl in crossing a bridge let it fall between the planks, so she got the whipping for her disobedience.

There used to be a beautiful farm about two miles north of the village, owned by Mr. Benoni Rose. He was a pleasant, jolly old man; inclined to be fat and loved a good dinner. He was originally a carpenter, and went to the West Indies with the Kane brothers. Before he left, he was engaged to Miss Maria Betts, whose father resided on this pretty retired place.—She was tall, thin, ladylike, and as unlike him as could be, but she was his beau ideal of all that was lovely and beautiful in a woman. All his ambition was to get enough to support her in comfort and luxury. He went away with the understanding that if he did not return in two years she could consider herself free of her promise. She was not anxious to

marry him, but the father, a selfish old man was determined she should, so that he could save his farm. She did not hear from him, and became engaged to a man after her own heart, but just before the time had expired, he came. He said he had written, but the letters had not reached her. Her lover was poor and so she had to marry him. It was a sad case. Altho' he was devoted to her she was sharp and tart in her bearing towards him; they were both to be pitied. They had no children. They came down and lived in the village and her brother lived with them and was always at logger heads with Mr. Rose, which could not have added to her happiness. Old Mrs. Campbell said there were two brothers Betts, and each of them had two children, but the latter had no descendents. Miss Deb Hudson, whose sayings have lived after her, said it was well, for the Lord knew there was enough of that pattern. The Betts came from Newtown, Long Island, and they brought with them an old negro woman named Betty, whose manners were most ladylike and finished. My mother said she was a good imitation of her mistress, Mrs. Betts. She had a daughter named Mary and her husband's name was Prince, who was as old if not older than Betty. He was in the employ of Mr. Roseboom and as the Cooperstown stage was going up the hill, a trunk fell off; whereupon old Prince got it. A very respectable man passed over the road soon after, and he was arrested and imprisoned in the jail at Cooperstown for several weeks. Finally

the theft was discovered by some silver spoons Mary had in her possession. The poor old man was released, but his reason had given away, and he never fully recovered. One of his daughters, I was told always wept when she told of his unjust imprisonment.

We had romances and tragedies here as there are everywhere, and altho' people did not make large fortunes, they did not seem to do much better when they went away, and some who left, returned to pass their last days here. We usually had three principal stores, and our hotels have been famous. Before the days of canals and railroads all the travelers were anxious to reach Story's tavern, and in later times Sterns' was quite famous too. This was the thoroughfare, the great Western turnpike, and every morning the stage horn used to come down the hill, a much more joyful sound than the shrill whistle of the steam engine.

About two miles above us lived a family of Prevosts. He was the son of the first Bishop of New York. He was very unsteady in his habits and his family sent him to New Jersey, where he married a good woman, and they had a large family of children. He had but two sons, and one of them is now an occupant of the asylum at Utica. The other one was a civil engineer, and a most respectable man. He died and left a widow and four children, one is a son; the daughters are dead with one exception. I think there is not one of his descendents in the Episcopal

church. I heard Dr. J. W. Francis say he was one of the most learned men of his time, and a great botanist. His gardens were in the upper part of New York, on the land which now belongs to Columbia College.

My grandfather, came here in 1787, when he was 21 years old, and he said he had a horse, a valise, and fifty dollars in his pocket. The records say he was a descendant of Peregrine White. His father was a surveyor under the crown, and died when my grandfather was a little boy. My grandfather ran away from home when only eight years old and shipped on a man of war at Boston. He went nearly around the world, he said, and was a powder monkey in an engagement and a man was shot down beside him. He was a very handsome man, six feet in his stockings and very active and powerful. He usually wore a dark green coat, long stockings and breeches; when riding he wore Wellington boots.—Among the patients that he had here were two sons of the celebrated Timothy Pickering. Both of them stayed with him a long time. My grandfather died when I was only nine years old. He used to go sometimes a day or two without eating and then eat a great deal. He went off below Cooperstown, and to several other places to see patients. At one place a woman asked him if he would not have something to eat? He said yes for “he was very hungry.” She gave him some ham, which was hard and tough. It distressed him greatly. He reached the house of

Mr. Cushman, in Monticello, but lived only a few days. He said he had inflammation of the diaphragm and could live but so long a time, and he died as he predicted.

I have been asked if I remembered the visit of President VanBuren in the year 1838, and been told that it would interest people to have an account of it by somebody who was here then. I was a young girl, about fourteen, at the time, and, as my father was a stanch whig, I did not admire the democrats; but considered them as bad as people could be. One day Mr. Levi Beardsley, who was the leading democrat here and a state Senator, informed my father, that Mr. VanBuren was coming and asked him if he could entertain him. He said he could if my mother was willing, which of course she was. So, upon the appointed day, a procession of two or three carriages went down to meet him, on the old Fort Plain road. When we reached Mr. Ough's, we saw the front yard filled with lovely red roses. We made a halt and Mr. Roseboom went into the house and told Mr. Ough that we were on our way to meet the president and asked him for some of his roses to present to him. He said, "Who is the bresident?" Mr. Roseboom answered "Mr. VanBuren." "Is he a goot man?" Mr. Roseboom said yes. "Then he may have my roses" he answered. A little further on we met the "goot man" and pelted him with the roses.—In the evening there was a reception at the Old Story Tavern, and the people from the neighborhood

all came to see him and were highly pleased. One man, perhaps a little overcome with something more potent than patriotism, called him "Mattie" and others claimed some kindred with him or some of his family. It was what would be called in these times "a grand ovation."

After this was over we were invited to a reception at Mr. Beardley's, where we were entertained with a liberal supper. Mrs. Beardsley insisted upon the president partaking of a piece of pumpkin pie; which he was too polite and kind to refuse. In the middle of the night the pumpkin pie was heard from, and my father went up to see what was the disturbance in Mr. VanBuren's room. He told him, "pumpkin pie." My father hurried to get something to allay the trouble, and he said to him: "President, I would not have you die in my house for anything;" which amused the president very much. He had with him his youngest son, Smith, and a colored valet. We had a very clever cook who, like Caleb Balderstone, was anxious to keep up the honor of the family. The valet said to her: "Does not Mr. Livingston keep a man?" She answered, "yes, but he is away now."

Mr. VanBuren was rather a small man, of florid complexion, most polite and refined in his appearance and manners, and winning in his address.—

Altho' Cherry Valley is a small place its worth talking about. You find its inhabitants in every part of the Continent from New York to the Pacific and

some of them are people to be proud of. In all the American Histories of the revolution there is an account of the massacres at Cherry Valley and Wyoming. It was originally patented by a Mr. Lindsay, a Scotchman, and an officer in the English army. It is a legend that he killed his friend in a duel. It was settled by a colony from down east, as the saying goes, and our hills are all named after the hills in the North of Ireland, Lady Hill, and several others. The colonists were Scotch Irish, from the North of Ireland, and consequently protestants.—The farm on which we live, which was the residence of my grandfather, Dr. White, was the home of the dominie Mr. Dunlop, a Scotchman, and we may call it classic ground for it is said that he used to teach boys Latin and Greek while plowing his fields. He was engaged to be married when he left Scotland, and if he did not return in seven years, his lady love could be at liberty to choose another lover. The time passed away and she was about to get married when lo! he appeared and so she had to marry him, and come to this wilderness. When the Indians came here, the old man hid in a wood pile, but she poor woman was killed. They cut off her arm with a tomahawk, and threw it up in an apple tree; the tree was standing when I was a child. I believe they were the parents of Mrs. Wells, and consequently the grandparents of John Wells, the celebrated lawyer. The family lived on the opposite hill, and were all murdered except the young John, who was at



Schenectady at school. My father, Jacob Livingston, was a student in his office. I had forgotten to say that the original name of the place was Lindsay's Bush. It is not necessary to tell of the capture of the Campbells, as the story has been told by the late Judge William Campbell in his "Annals of Tryon County." I remember the old Judge, who was taken captive, with his mother, when quite a young boy. When a very old man, over 80, he went to Canada to visit the tribe of Indians with whom he had lived. He was very fond of their way of living. They asked him if he could remember any of their language. He said only one word, and that was his name, and he would like to know its meaning. When he told them his name, they said it meant, "big eyes." He and his wife lived to a good old age she was about 91 if I recollect and he 97. They celebrated their "Diamond Wedding." Her name was Elderkin, and she came from Wyndham. There is a funny story told about that place: there were two ponds near it and there was a great drought, and one pond was nearly dry, so the frogs migrated from the dry pond to the adjoining one, in hopes of getting water. On their march they croaked, and an old negro got awfully frightened for he said, the Indians were coming for he heard them say: "Col. Dyer! Col. Dyer! and Elderkin too! Elderkin too!" Col. Dyer was one of the principal men in Windham.—The son of Judge Campbell, who wrote the "Annals of Tryon Co.," has written a book or rather a history



of the "Puritan in England and America," which has produced quite a sensation, and I should think would be much prized by the admirers and adherents of Calvin. This is a little hamlet among the hills. I sometimes think of the description of Jerusalem; as the Mountains are about thee, O Jerusalem, so are the hills about thee, O Cherry Valley! It is a bright pleasant place in summer, and people are glad to come here, to inhale our cool fresh air. The world has moved on beyond us, and if we are behind in some of the modern improvements and luxuries, we have escaped some of the troubles and vexations attending them.

**ERRATA.**

The proof reading of some of the early portions of this work was not as carefully done as the author would wish, but, fortunately, the mistakes are in the main mere typographical errors. There are, however, three mistakes to which especial attention is called: In the first, Harpersfield is called Harpersville; in the account of the first massacre, in one place Alden is spelled Allen; and on page 96, Major Daniel Hale, of Albany, is called Hall.





















